MARVEL

1

LGY#681

RATED T+

JOSHUA WILLIAMSON · CARMEN CARNERO · NOLAN WOODARD

IRON MAN

A BOLD NEW ERA BEGINS HERE!

WITNESS THE BIRTH OF A NEW NIGHTMARE AS SUPERSTAR WRITER JOSHUA WILLIAMSON AND LEGACY STORMBREAKER CARMEN CARNERO BUILD THE NEXT CHAPTER FOR THE MARVEL UNIVERSE'S GREATEST WEAPON: *TONY STARK!*
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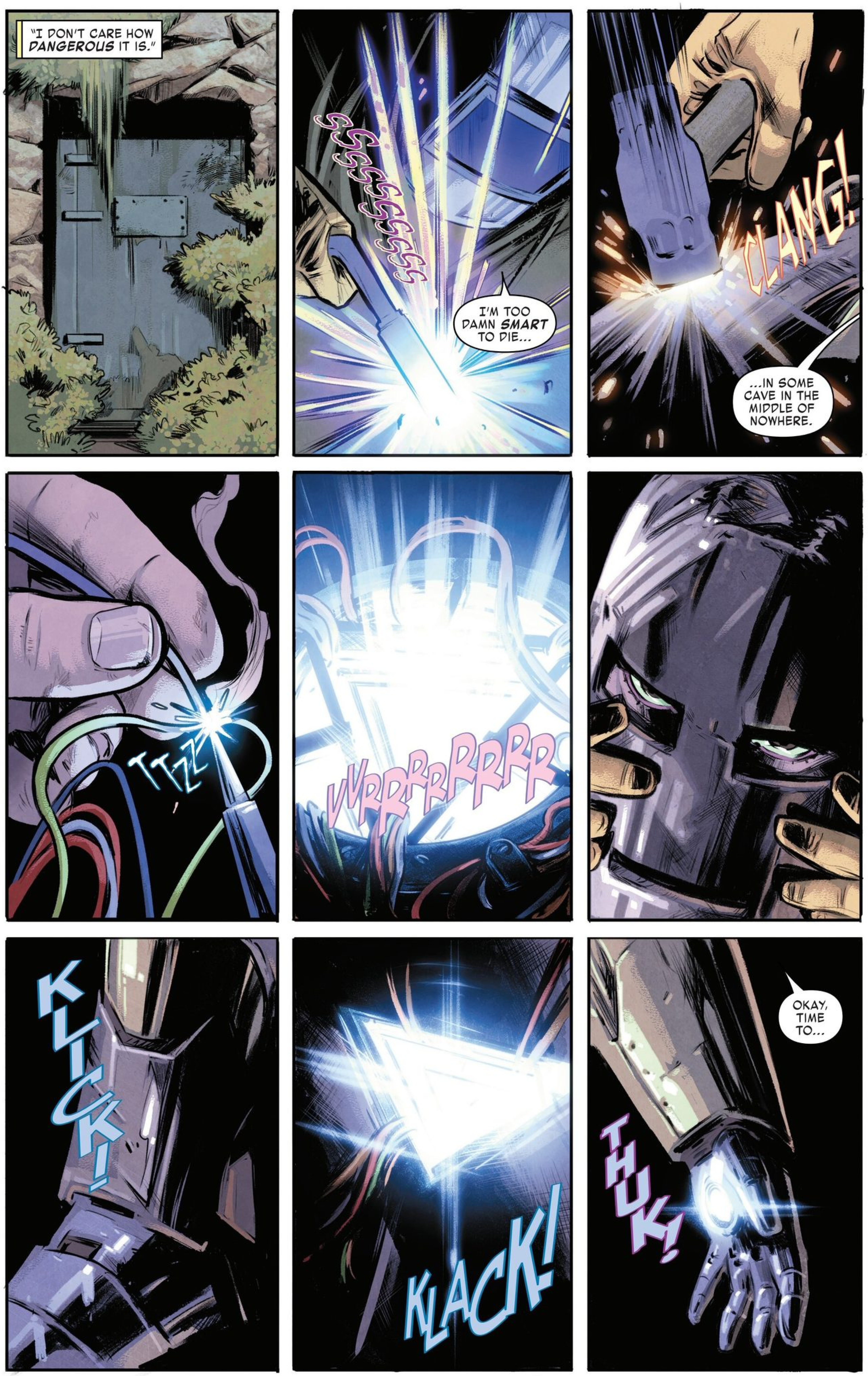
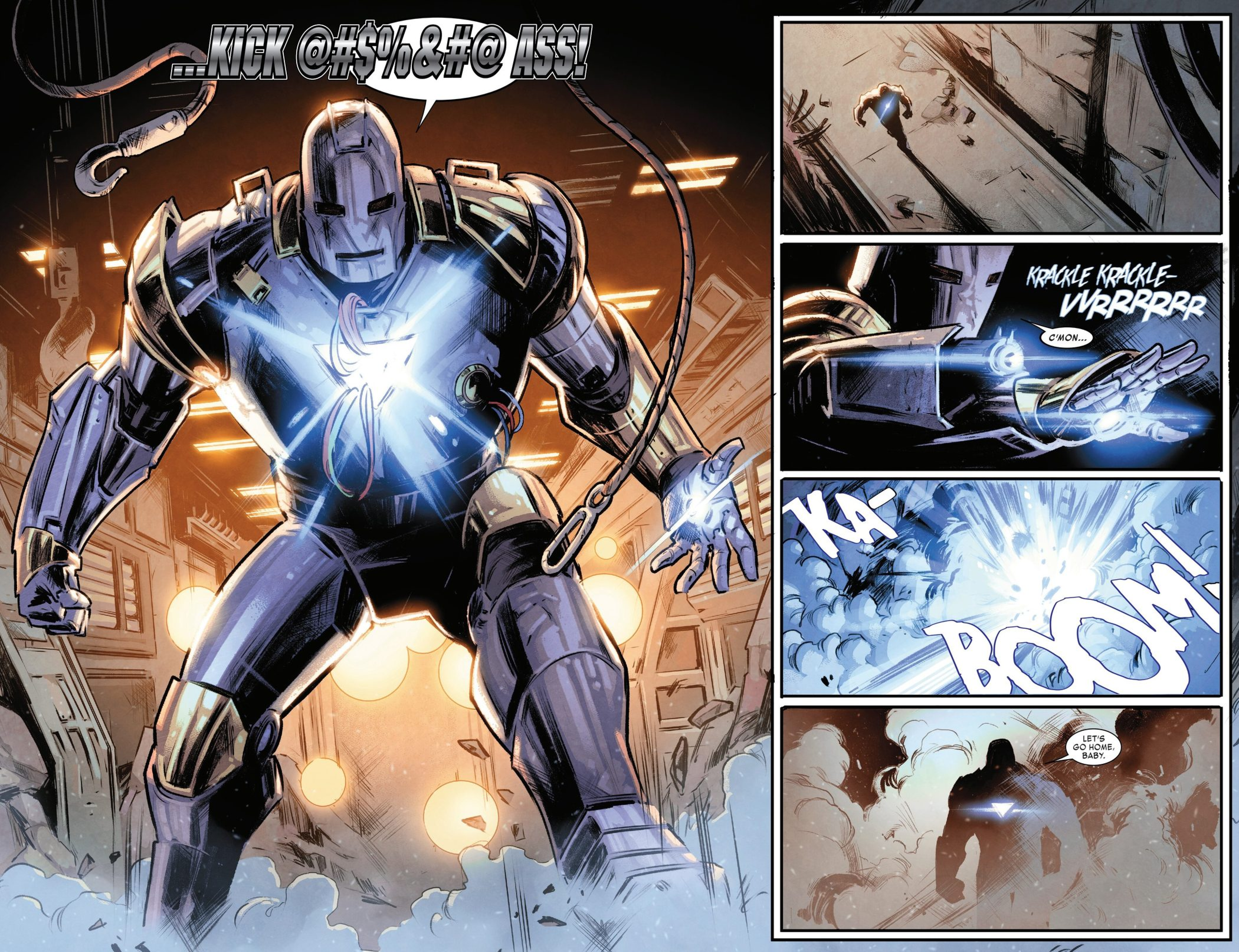
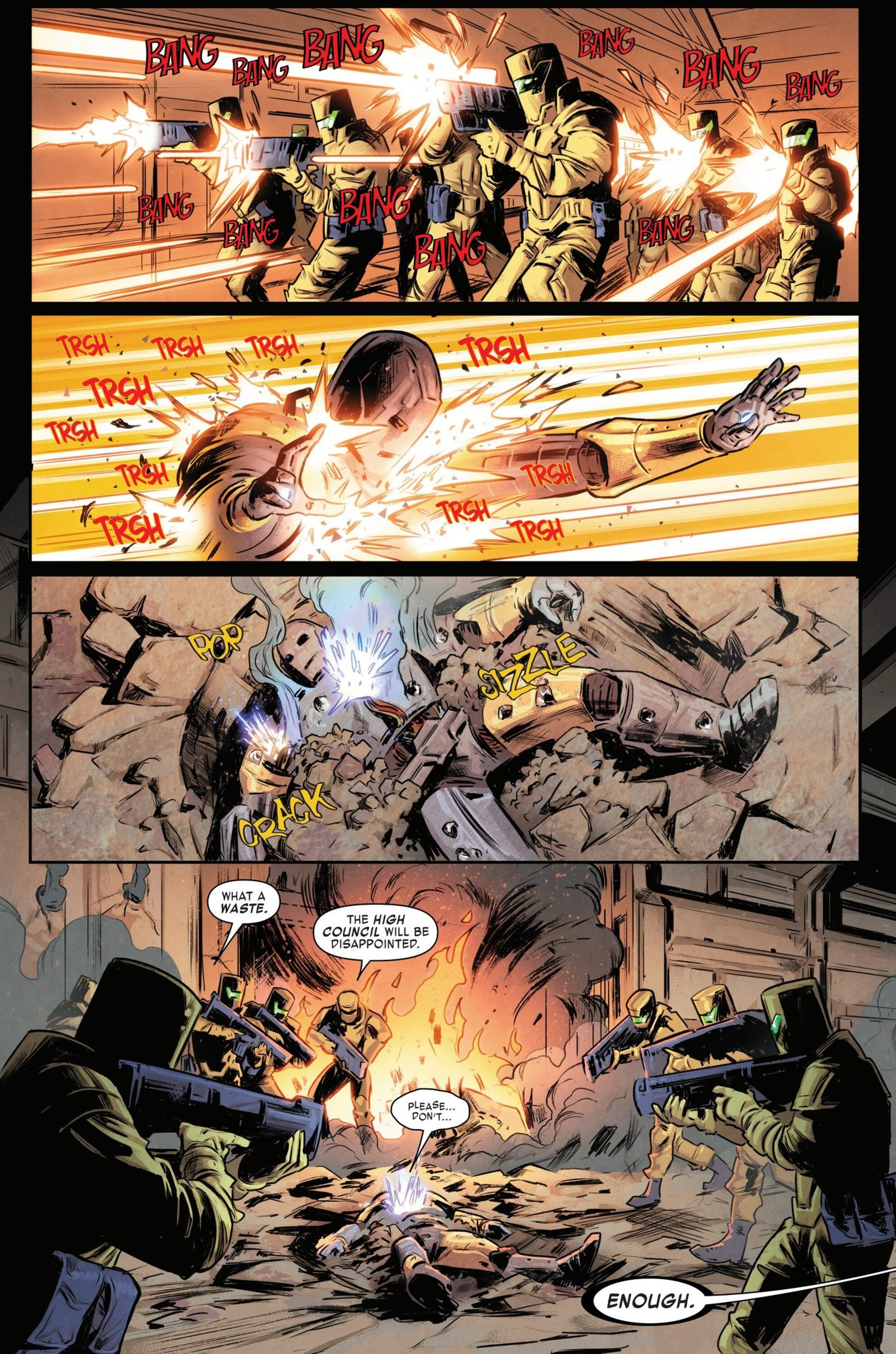

"I DON'T CARE HOW **DANGEROUS** IT IS."
SSSSSSSSSSS
I'M TOO DAMN **SMART** TO DIE...
CLANG!
...IN SOME CAVE IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE.
TTZZ
VVRRRRRRRR
KLICK!
KLACK!
THUK!
OKAY, TIME TO...


...KICK @#$%&#@ ASS!
KRACKLE KRACKLE-
VVRRRRRR
C'MON...
KA-
BOOM!
LET'S GO HOME, BABY.


BANG
BANG
BANG
BANG
BANG
BANG
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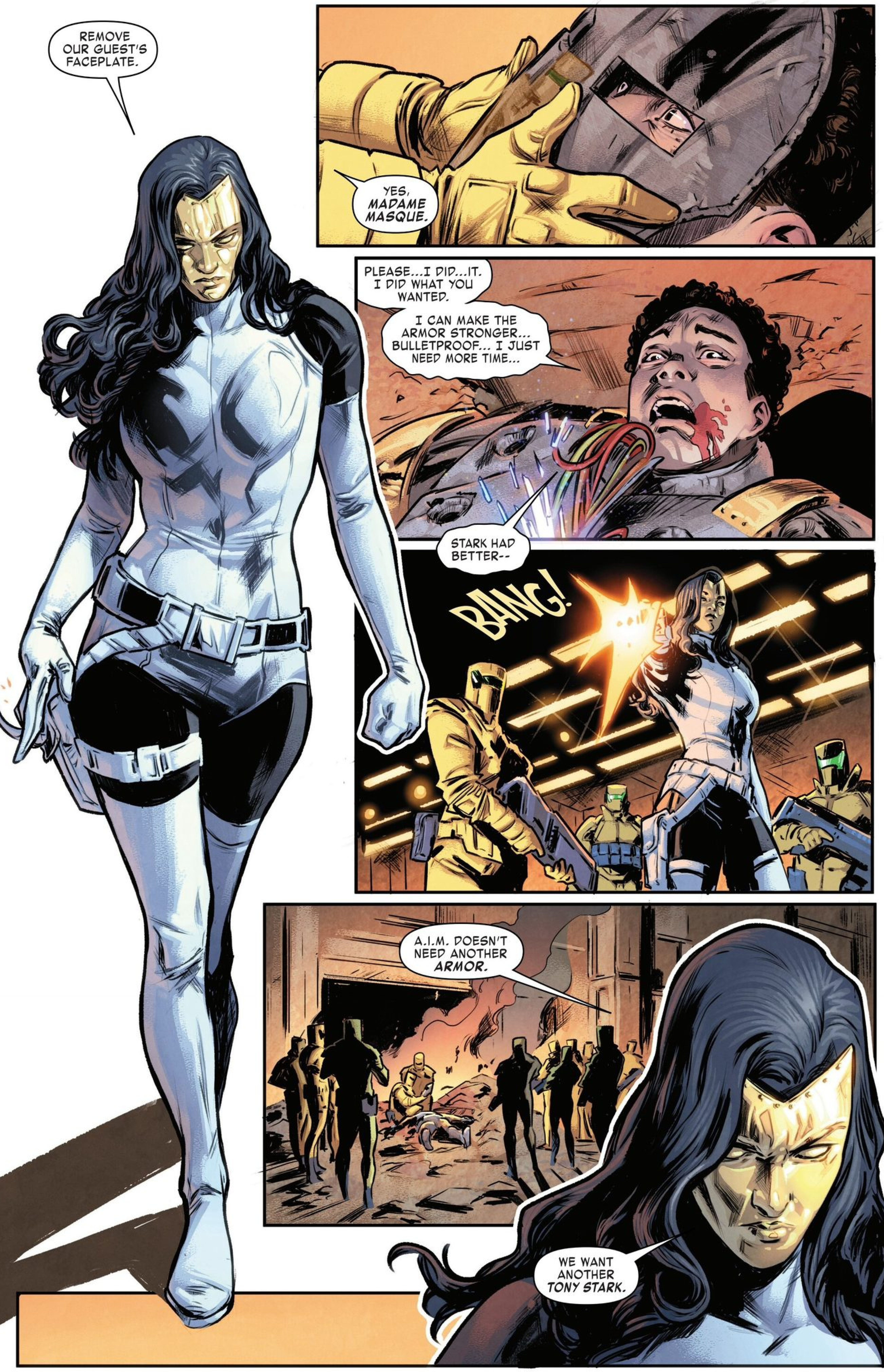
BANG
BANG
BANG
BANG
TRSH
TRSH
TRSH
TRSH
TRSH
TRSH
TRSH
TRSH
TRSH
TRSH
TRSH
POP
SIZZLE
CRACK
WHAT A WASTE.
THE HIGH COUNCIL WILL BE DISAPPOINTED.
PLEASE... DON'T...
ENOUGH.


REMOVE OUR GUEST'S FACEPLATE.
YES, *MADAME MASQUE.*
PLEASE...I DID...IT. I DID WHAT YOU WANTED.
I CAN MAKE THE ARMOR STRONGER... BULLETPROOF... I JUST NEED MORE TIME...
STARK HAD BETTER--
BANG!
A.I.M. DOESN'T NEED ANOTHER *ARMOR.*
WE WANT ANOTHER *TONY STARK.*

AFTER A LIFE-THREATENING INJURY, CAUSED BY HIS OWN COMPANY'S WEAPONS, LEFT TONY STARK STRANDED IN A CAVE CLINGING TO LIFE, HE DID WHAT ONLY FEW COULD DO: HE DIDN'T JUST SURVIVE, HE THRIVED. DONNING A GOLDEN SUIT OF ARMOR, TONY STARK MADE IT HIS MISSION TO KEEP THIS WORLD--THIS UNIVERSE--SAFE.

TONY STARK IS MANY THINGS: GENIUS BILLIONAIRE PLAYBOY. FOUNDING MEMBER OF THE AVENGERS. HERO TO MILLIONS. BUT NO MATTER WHAT CHANGES IN HIS LIFE, TONY STARK WILL ALWAYS BE...

IRON MAN

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"A NEW NIGHTMARE"

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DECLAN SHALVEY [FOIL ARMOR];
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SKOTTIE YOUNG [CONNECTING];
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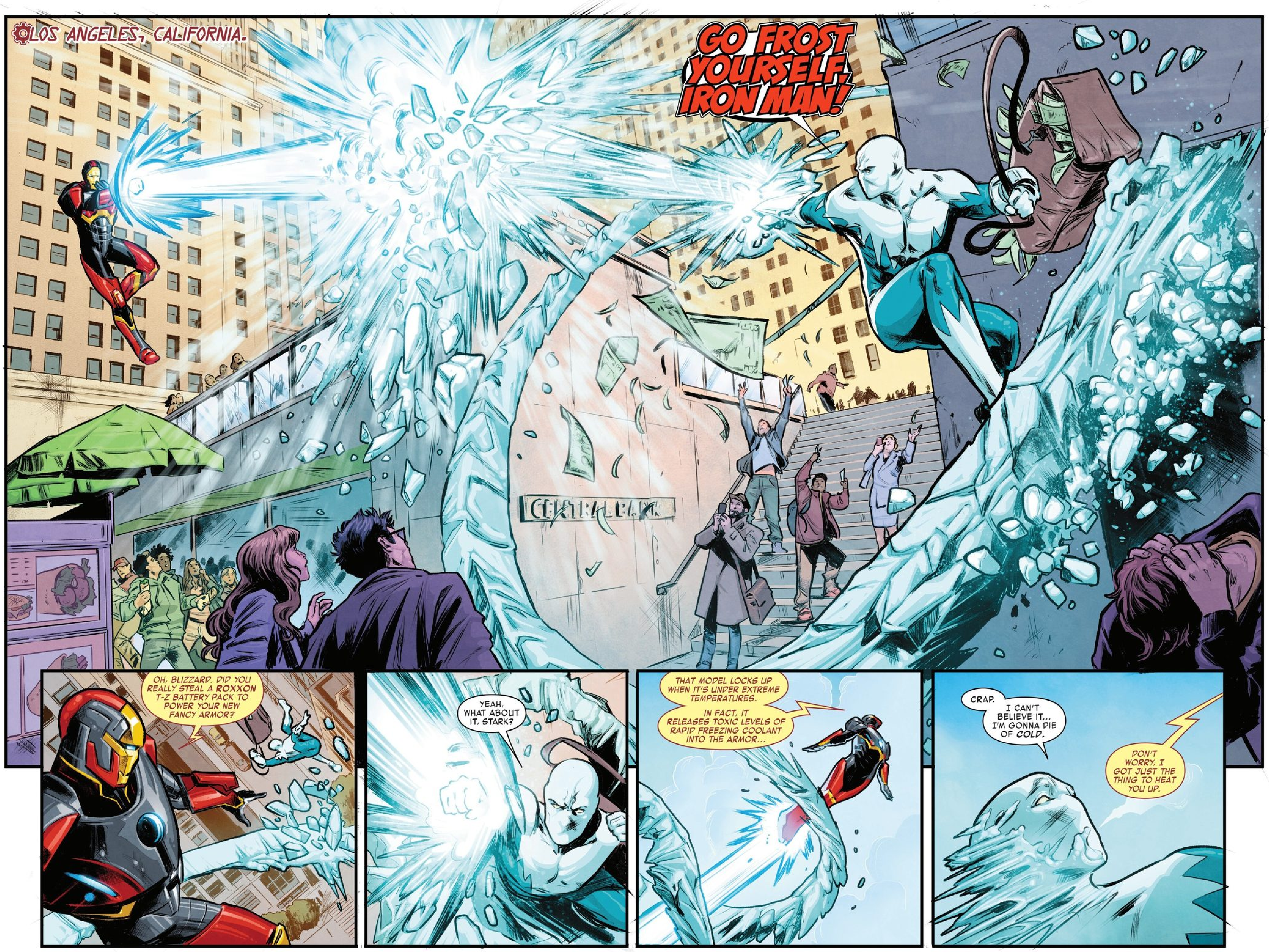
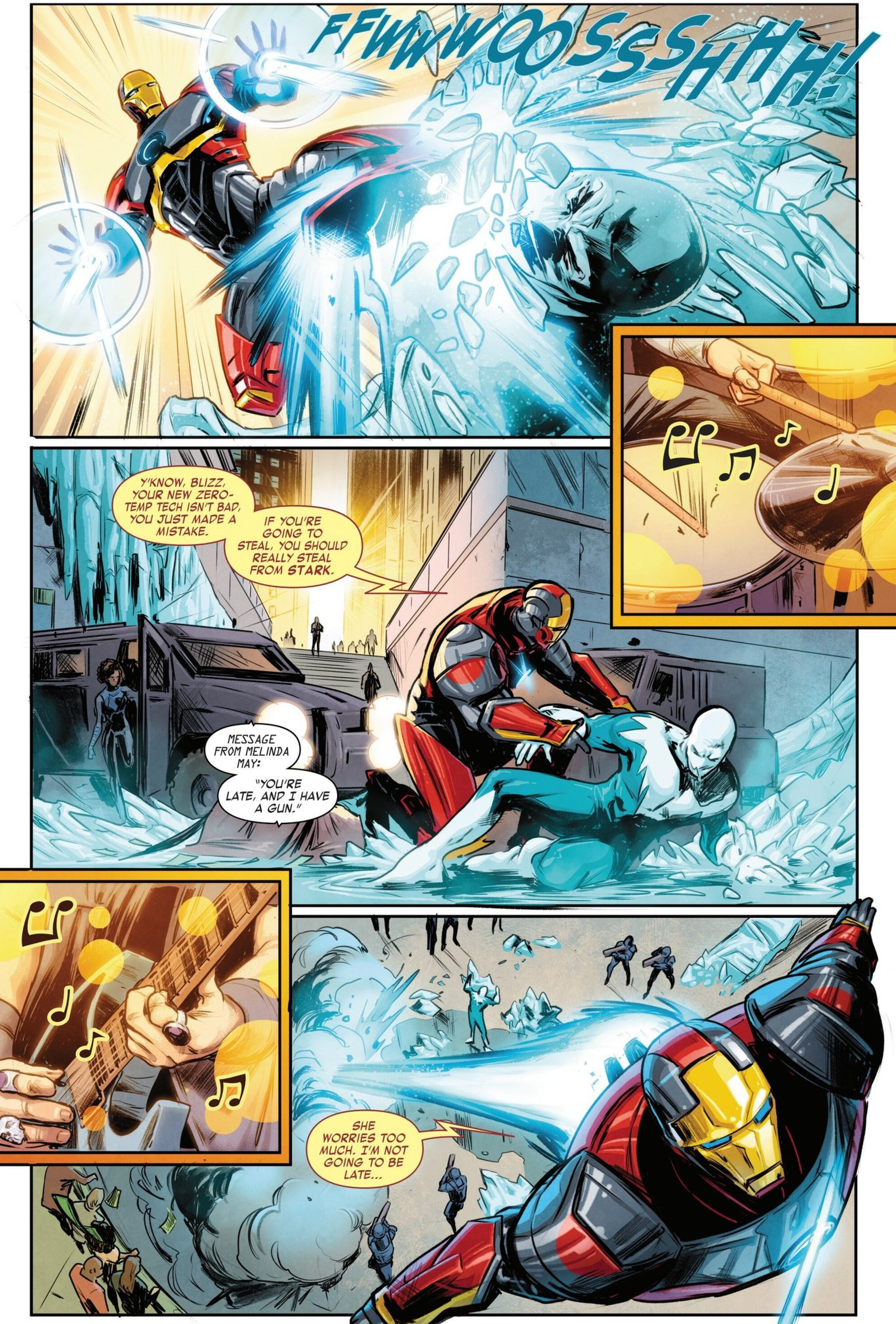
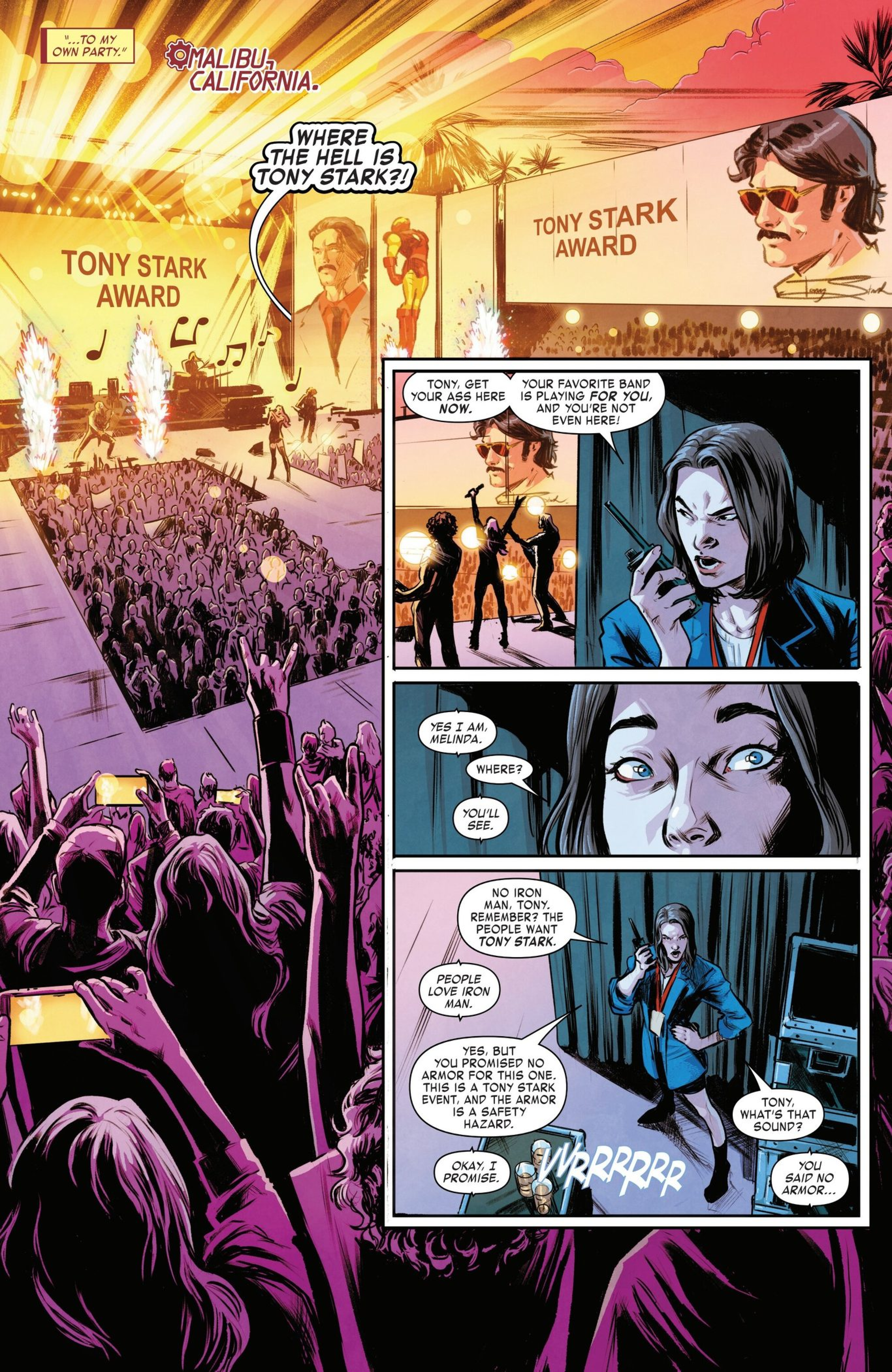
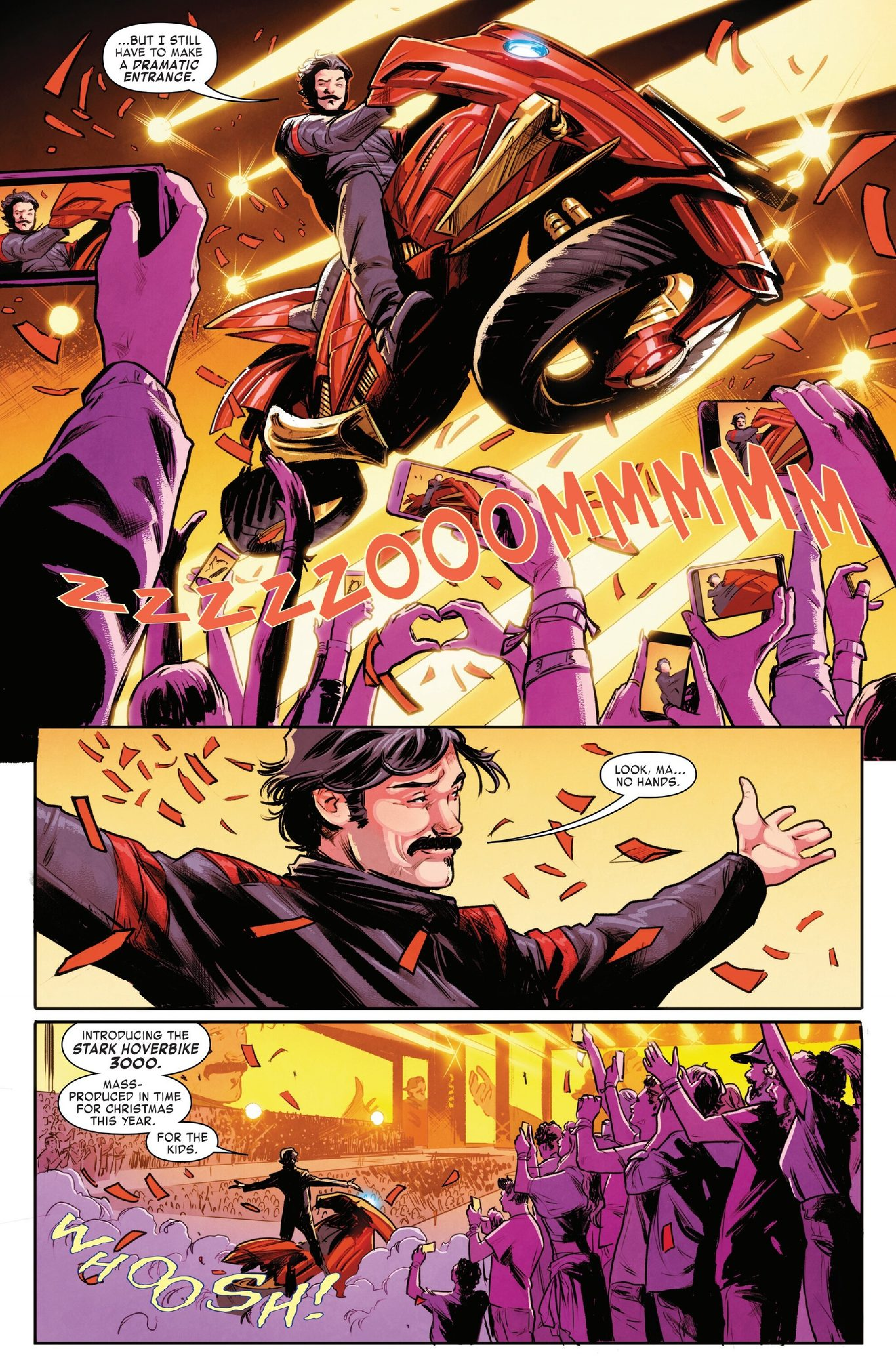
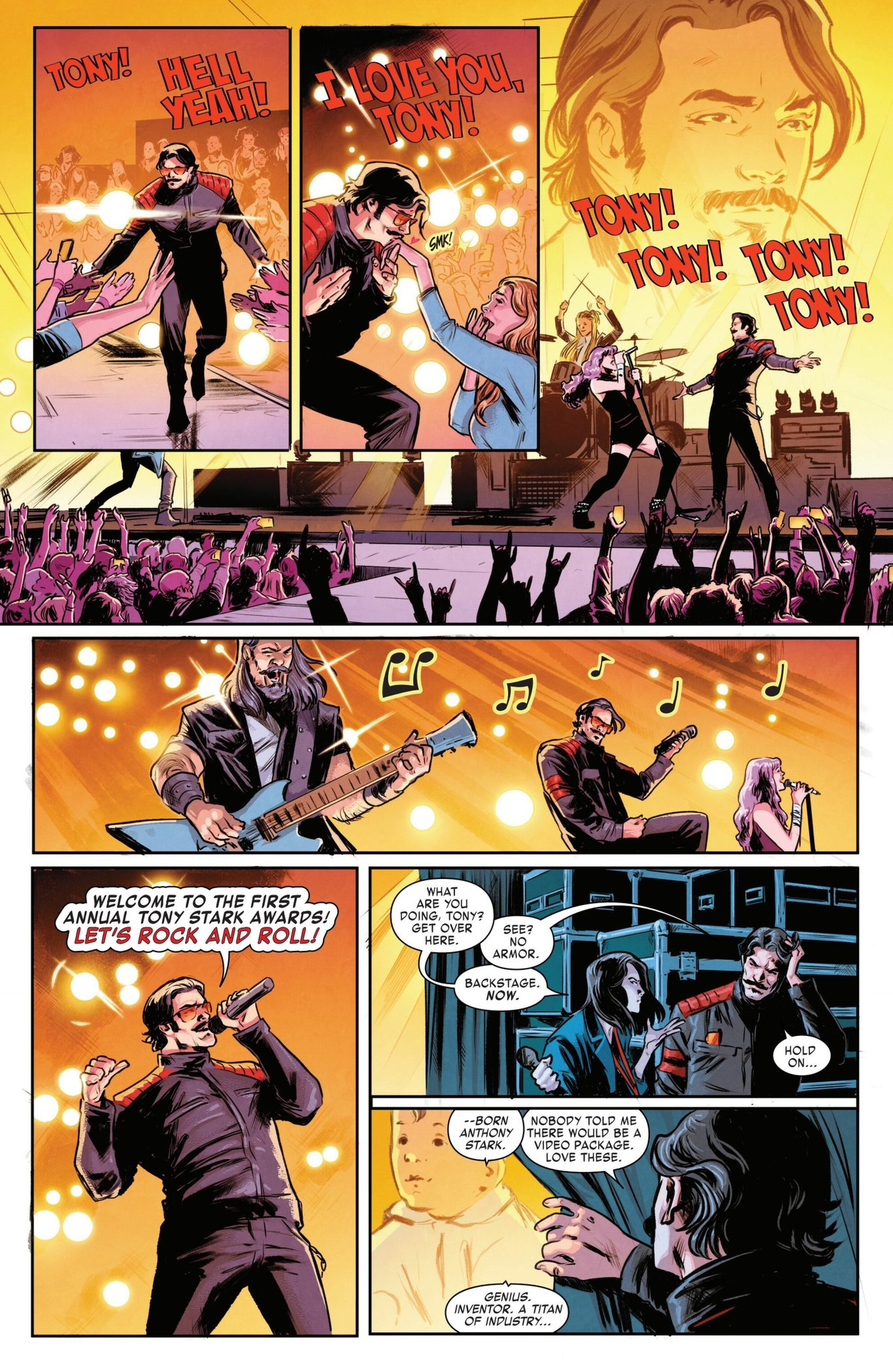
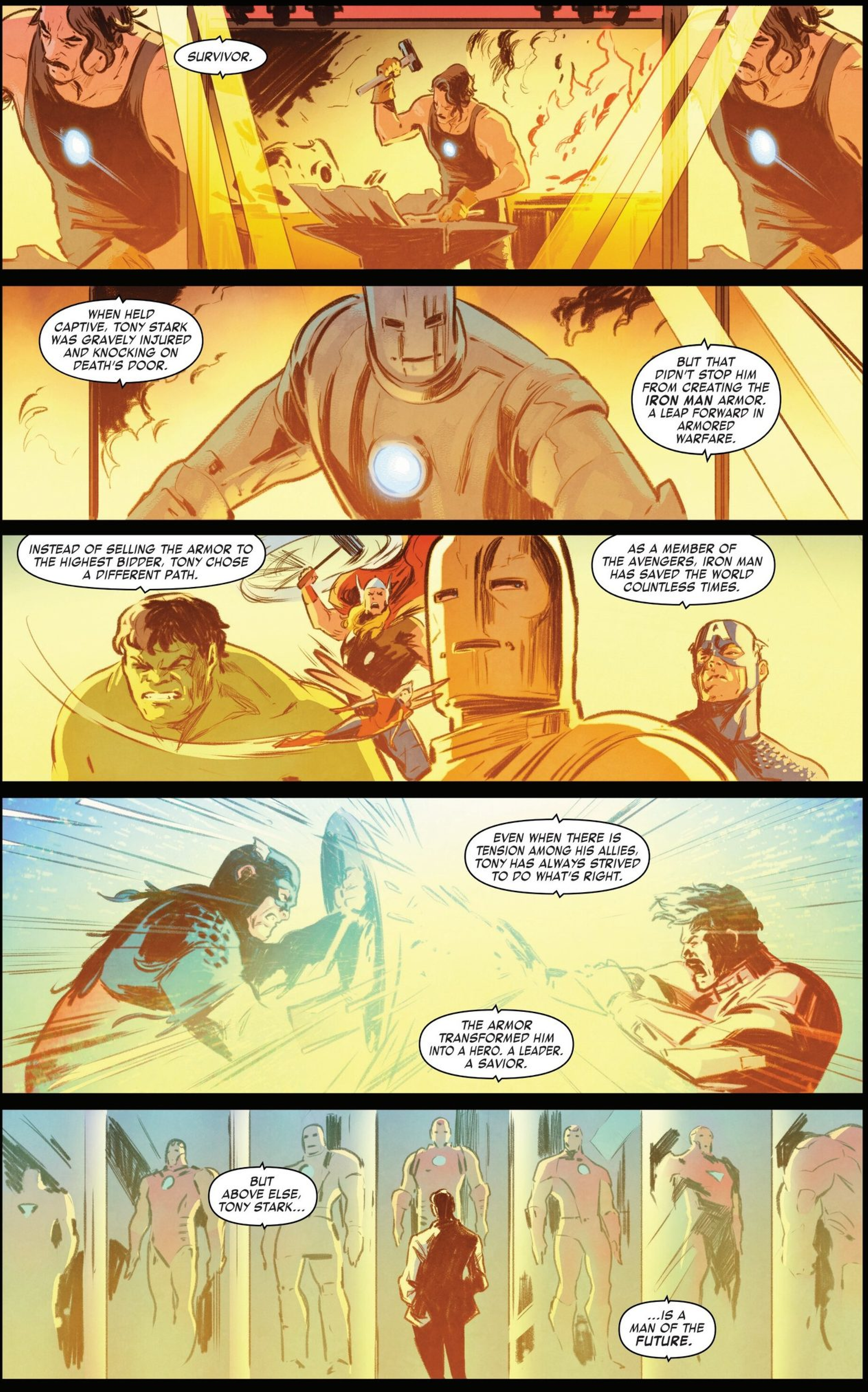

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA.
GO FROST YOURSELF, IRON MAN!
CENTRAL BANK
OH, BLIZZARD. DID YOU REALLY STEAL A ROXXON T-Z BATTERY PACK TO POWER YOUR NEW FANCY ARMOR?
YEAH, WHAT ABOUT IT, STARK?
THAT MODEL LOCKS UP WHEN IT'S UNDER EXTREME TEMPERATURES.
IN FACT, IT RELEASES TOXIC LEVELS OF RAPID FREEZING COOLANT INTO THE ARMOR...
CRAP.
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT... I'M GONNA DIE OF COLD.
DON'T WORRY, I GOT JUST THE THING TO HEAT YOU UP.

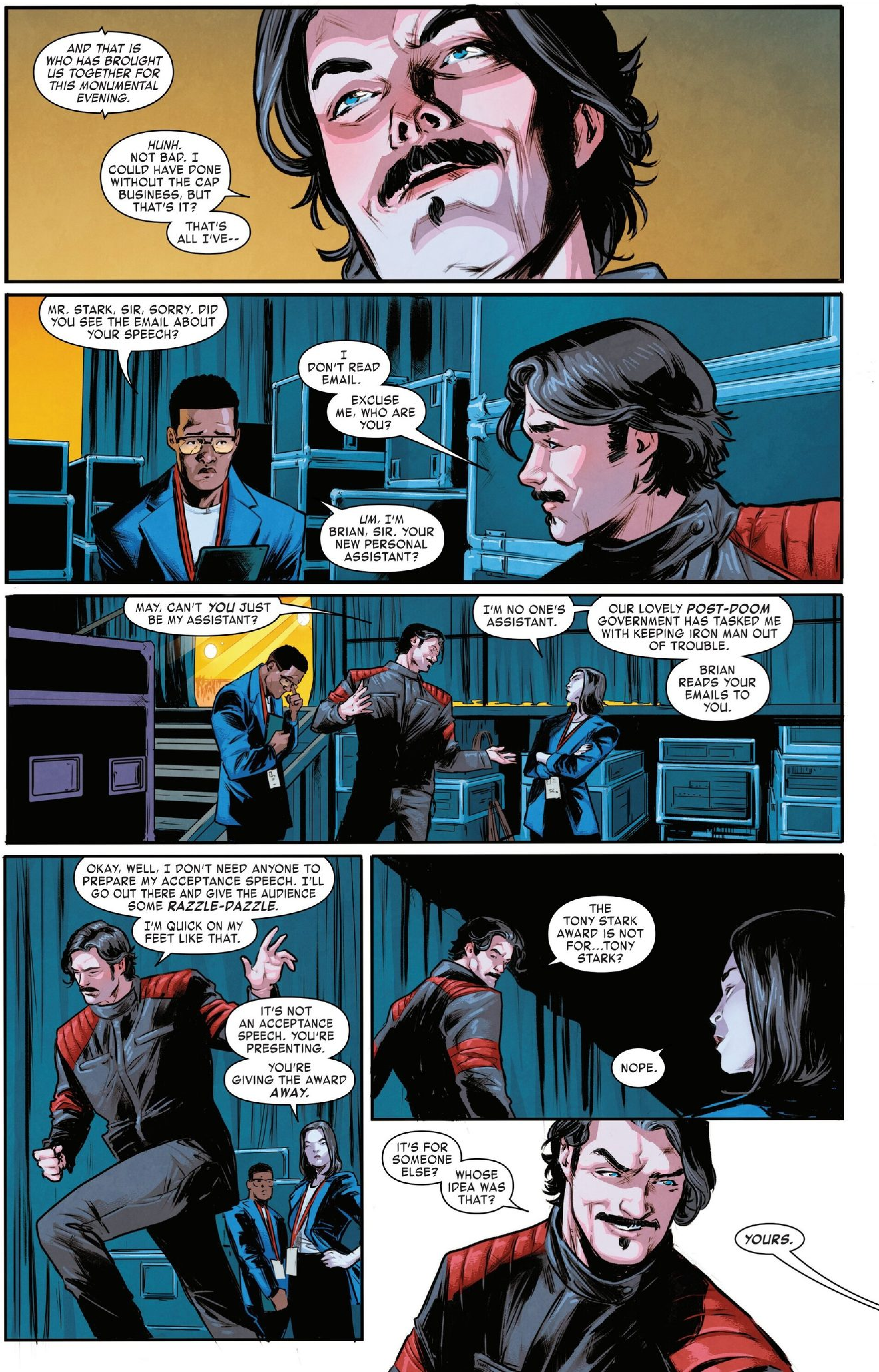

FFWWWOOSSSHHH!
Y'KNOW, BLIZZ, YOUR NEW ZERO-TEMP TECH ISN'T BAD, YOU JUST MADE A MISTAKE.
IF YOU'RE GOING TO STEAL, YOU SHOULD REALLY STEAL FROM **STARK**.
MESSAGE FROM MELINDA MAY:
"YOU'RE LATE, AND I HAVE A GUN."
SHE WORRIES TOO MUCH. I'M NOT GOING TO BE LATE...

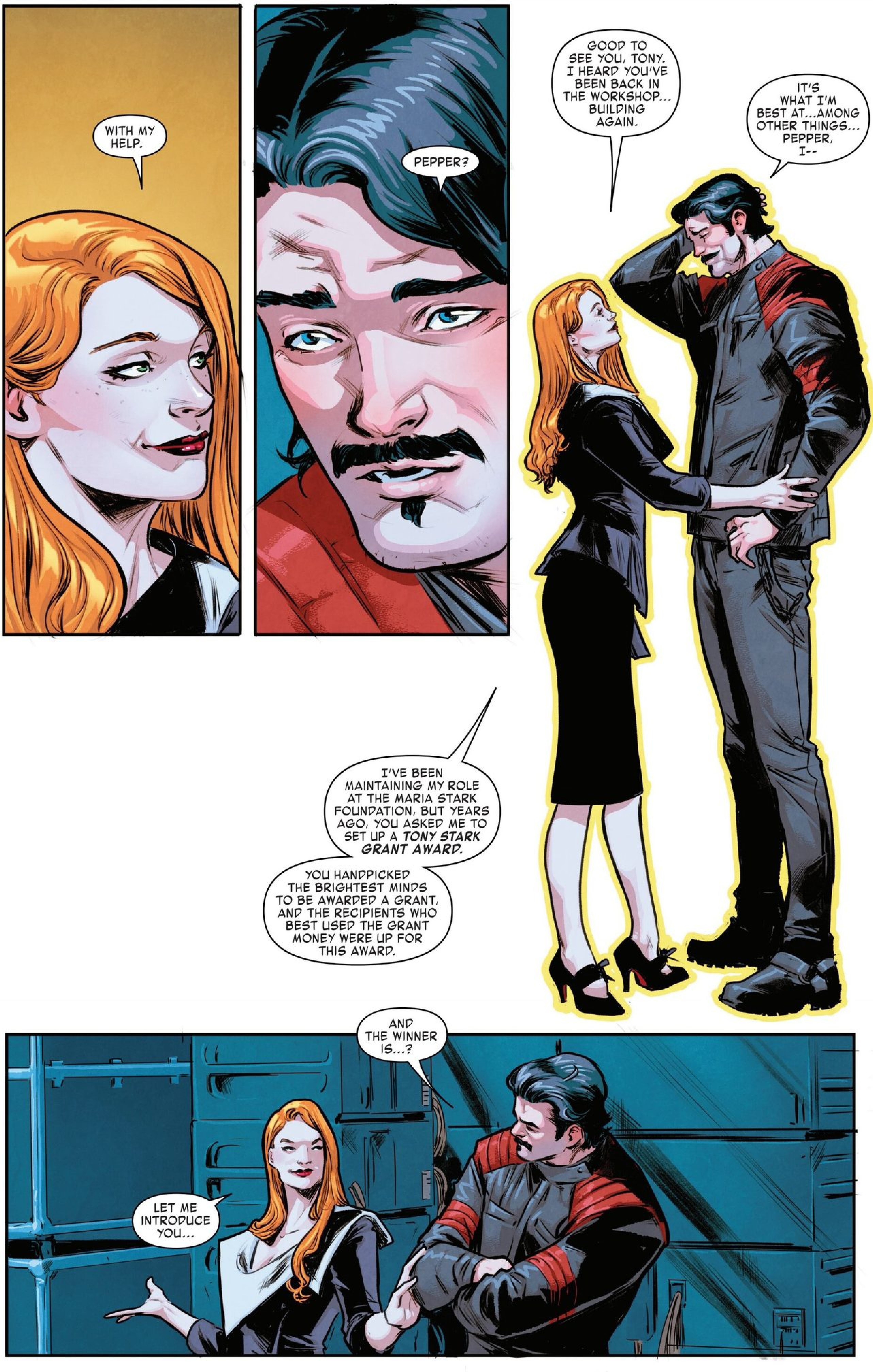

"...TO MY OWN PARTY."
MALIBU, CALIFORNIA.
WHERE THE HELL IS TONY STARK?!
TONY STARK AWARD
TONY STARK AWARD
TONY, GET YOUR ASS HERE NOW.
YOUR FAVORITE BAND IS PLAYING FOR YOU, AND YOU'RE NOT EVEN HERE!
YES I AM, MELINDA.
WHERE?
YOU'LL SEE.
NO IRON MAN, TONY. REMEMBER? THE PEOPLE WANT TONY STARK.
PEOPLE LOVE IRON MAN.
YES, BUT YOU PROMISED NO ARMOR FOR THIS ONE. THIS IS A TONY STARK EVENT, AND THE ARMOR IS A SAFETY HAZARD.
OKAY, I PROMISE.
VVRRRRRR
TONY, WHAT'S THAT SOUND?
YOU SAID NO ARMOR...

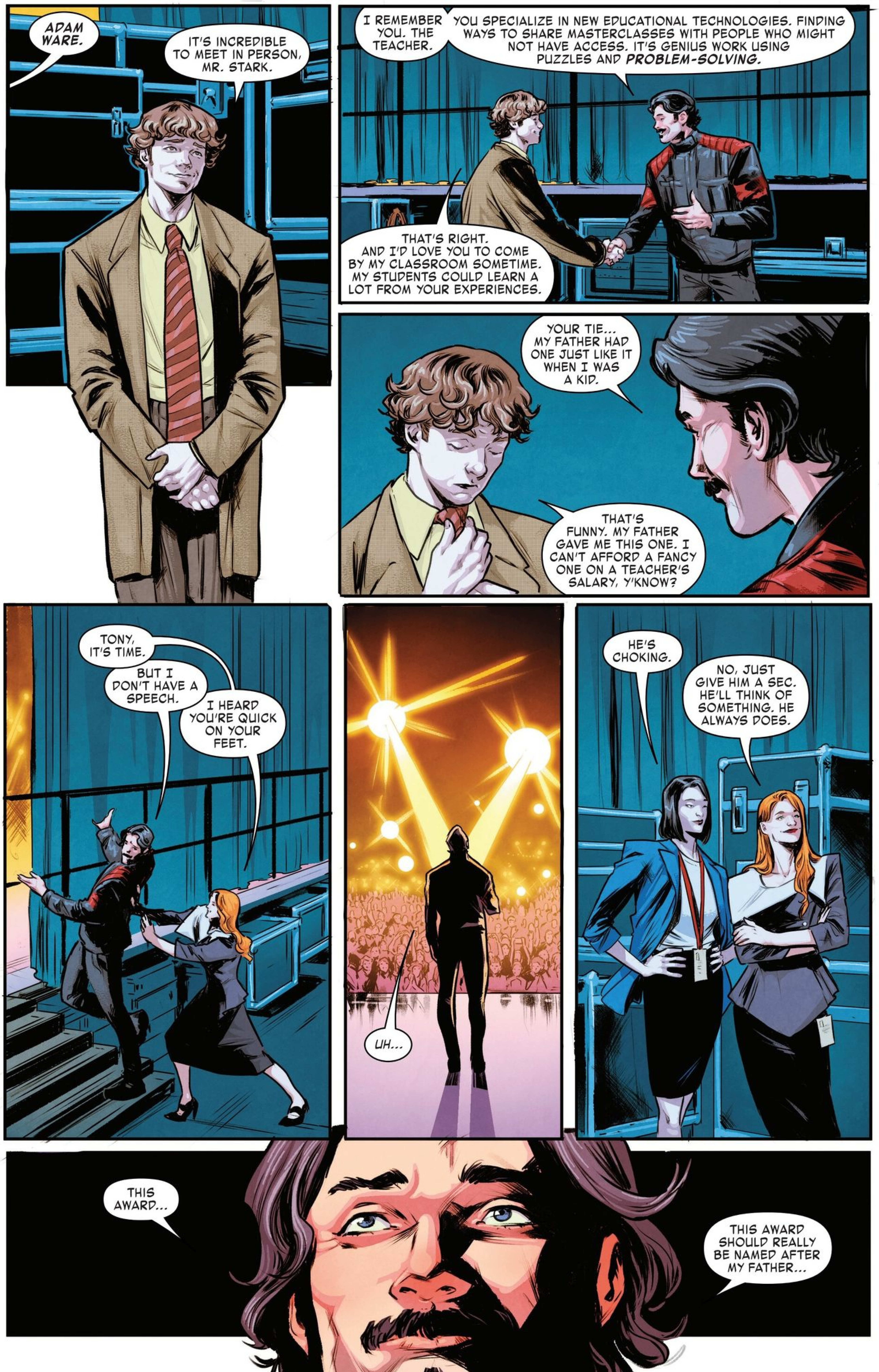

...BUT I STILL HAVE TO MAKE A *DRAMATIC ENTRANCE.*
ZZZZZOOOMMMMMM
LOOK, MA... NO HANDS.
INTRODUCING THE ***STARK HOVERBIKE 3000.***
MASS-PRODUCED IN TIME FOR CHRISTMAS THIS YEAR.
FOR THE KIDS.
WHOOSH!

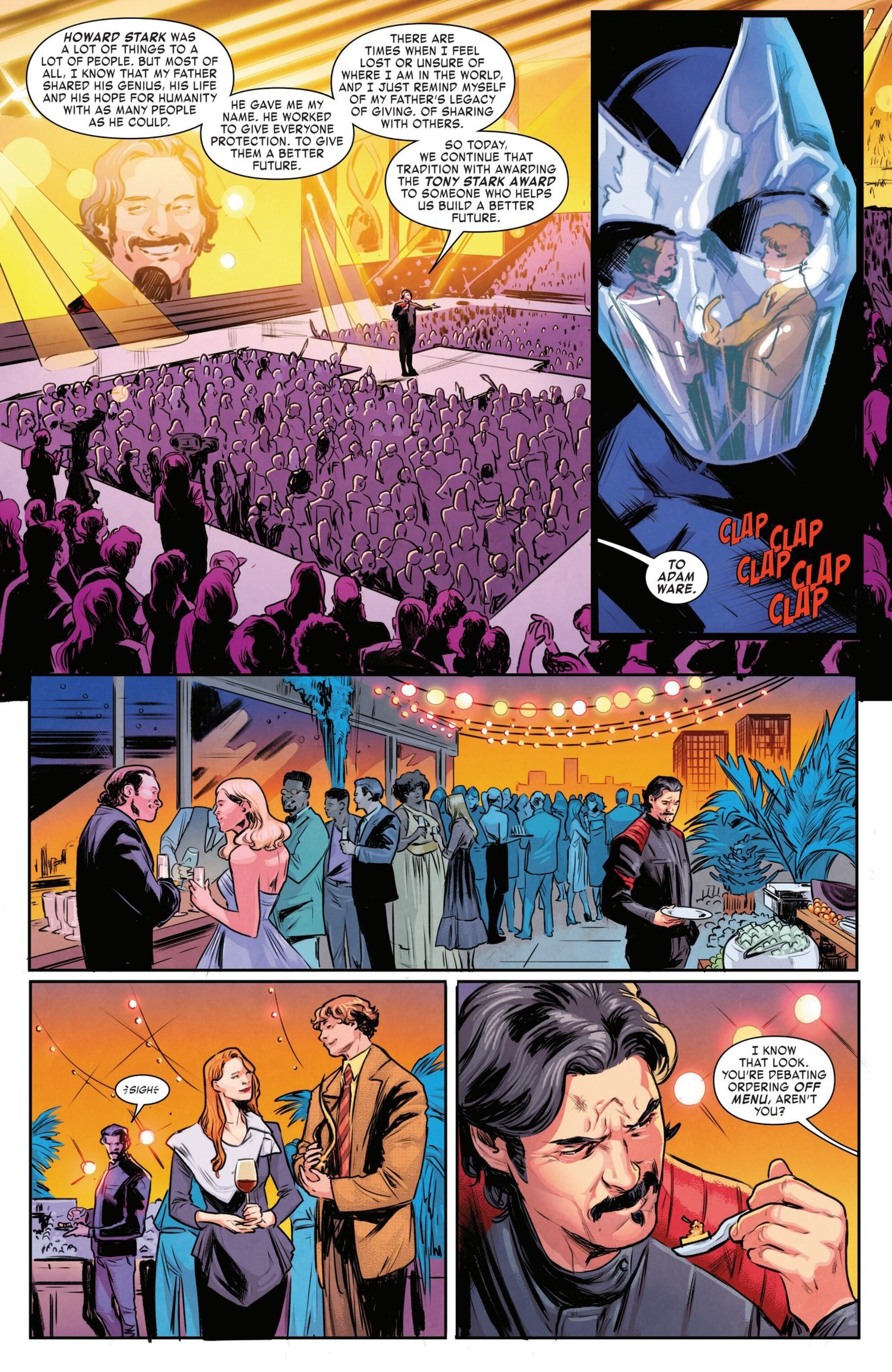

TONY!
HELL YEAH!
I LOVE YOU, TONY!
SMK!
TONY! TONY! TONY! TONY!
WELCOME TO THE FIRST ANNUAL TONY STARK AWARDS! LET'S ROCK AND ROLL!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, TONY? GET OVER HERE.
SEE? NO ARMOR.
BACKSTAGE. NOW.
HOLD ON...
--BORN ANTHONY STARK.
NOBODY TOLD ME THERE WOULD BE A VIDEO PACKAGE. LOVE THESE.
GENIUS. INVENTOR. A TITAN OF INDUSTRY...

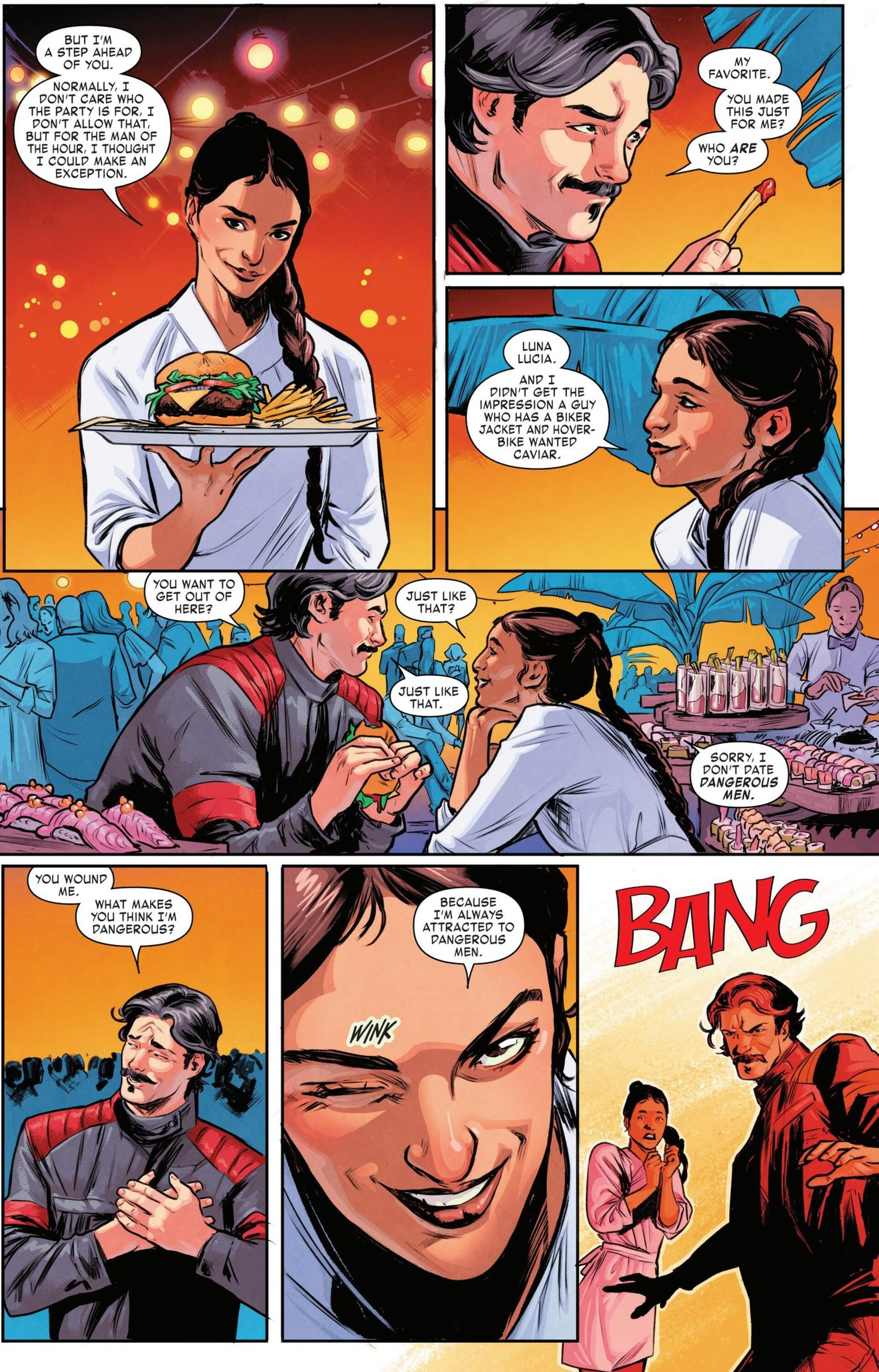

SURVIVOR.
WHEN HELD CAPTIVE, TONY STARK WAS GRAVELY INJURED AND KNOCKING ON DEATH'S DOOR.
BUT THAT DIDN'T STOP HIM FROM CREATING THE **IRON MAN** ARMOR. A LEAP FORWARD IN ARMORED WARFARE.
INSTEAD OF SELLING THE ARMOR TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER, TONY CHOSE A DIFFERENT PATH.
AS A MEMBER OF THE AVENGERS, IRON MAN HAS SAVED THE WORLD COUNTLESS TIMES.
EVEN WHEN THERE IS TENSION AMONG HIS ALLIES, TONY HAS ALWAYS STRIVED TO DO WHAT'S RIGHT.
THE ARMOR TRANSFORMED HIM INTO A HERO. A LEADER. A SAVIOR.
BUT ABOVE ELSE, TONY STARK...
...IS A MAN OF THE **FUTURE.**

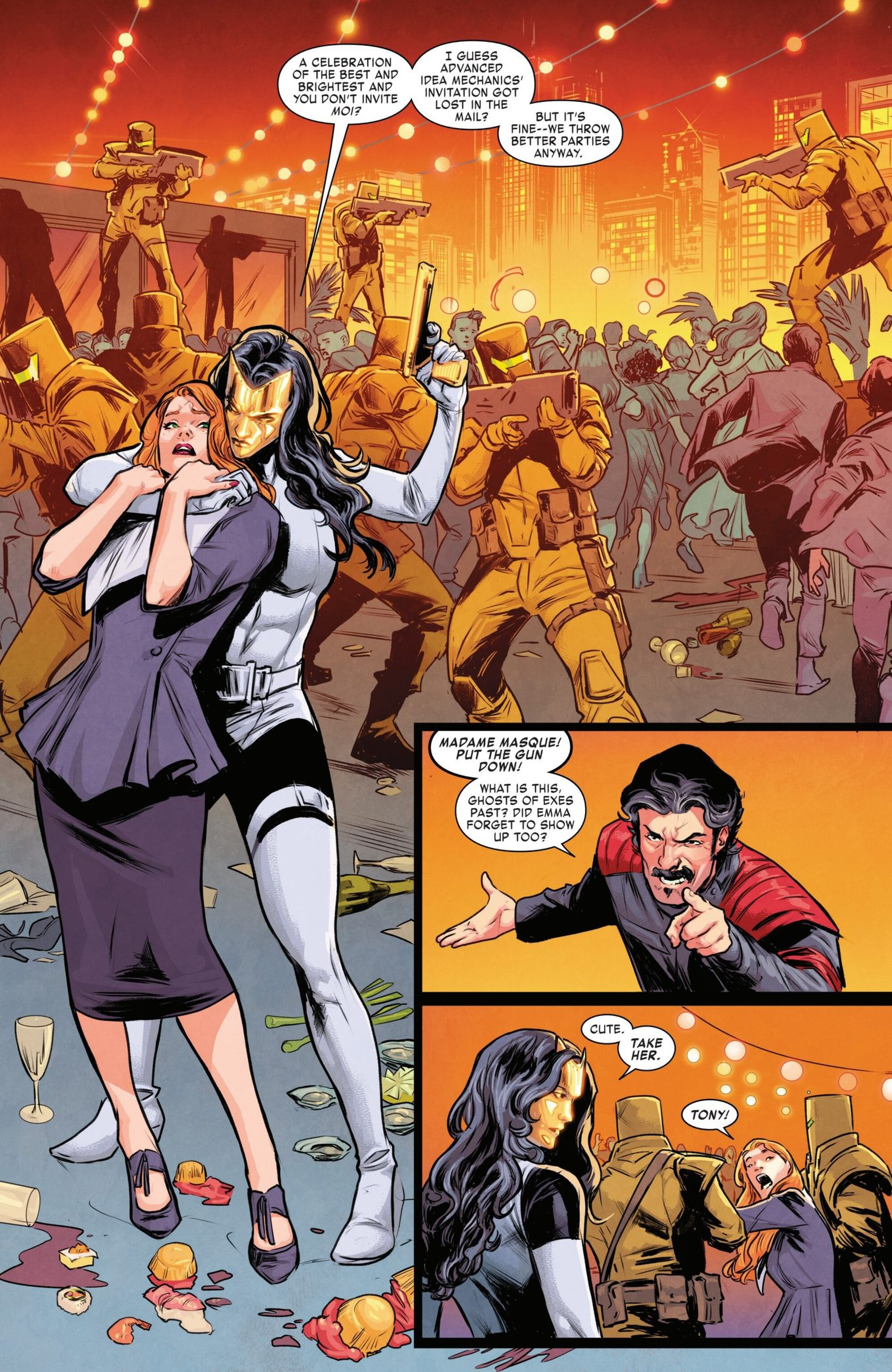

AND THAT IS WHO HAS BROUGHT US TOGETHER FOR THIS MONUMENTAL EVENING.
HUNH. NOT BAD. I COULD HAVE DONE WITHOUT THE CAP BUSINESS, BUT THAT'S IT?
THAT'S ALL I'VE--
MR. STARK, SIR, SORRY. DID YOU SEE THE EMAIL ABOUT YOUR SPEECH?
I DON'T READ EMAIL.
EXCUSE ME, WHO ARE YOU?
UM, I'M BRIAN, SIR. YOUR NEW PERSONAL ASSISTANT?
MAY, CAN'T YOU JUST BE MY ASSISTANT?
I'M NO ONE'S ASSISTANT.
OUR LOVELY POST-DOOM GOVERNMENT HAS TASKED ME WITH KEEPING IRON MAN OUT OF TROUBLE.
BRIAN READS YOUR EMAILS TO YOU.
OKAY, WELL, I DON'T NEED ANYONE TO PREPARE MY ACCEPTANCE SPEECH. I'LL GO OUT THERE AND GIVE THE AUDIENCE SOME RAZZLE-DAZZLE.
I'M QUICK ON MY FEET LIKE THAT.
IT'S NOT AN ACCEPTANCE SPEECH. YOU'RE PRESENTING.
YOU'RE GIVING THE AWARD AWAY.
THE TONY STARK AWARD IS NOT FOR...TONY STARK?
NOPE.
IT'S FOR SOMEONE ELSE?
WHOSE IDEA WAS THAT?
YOURS.

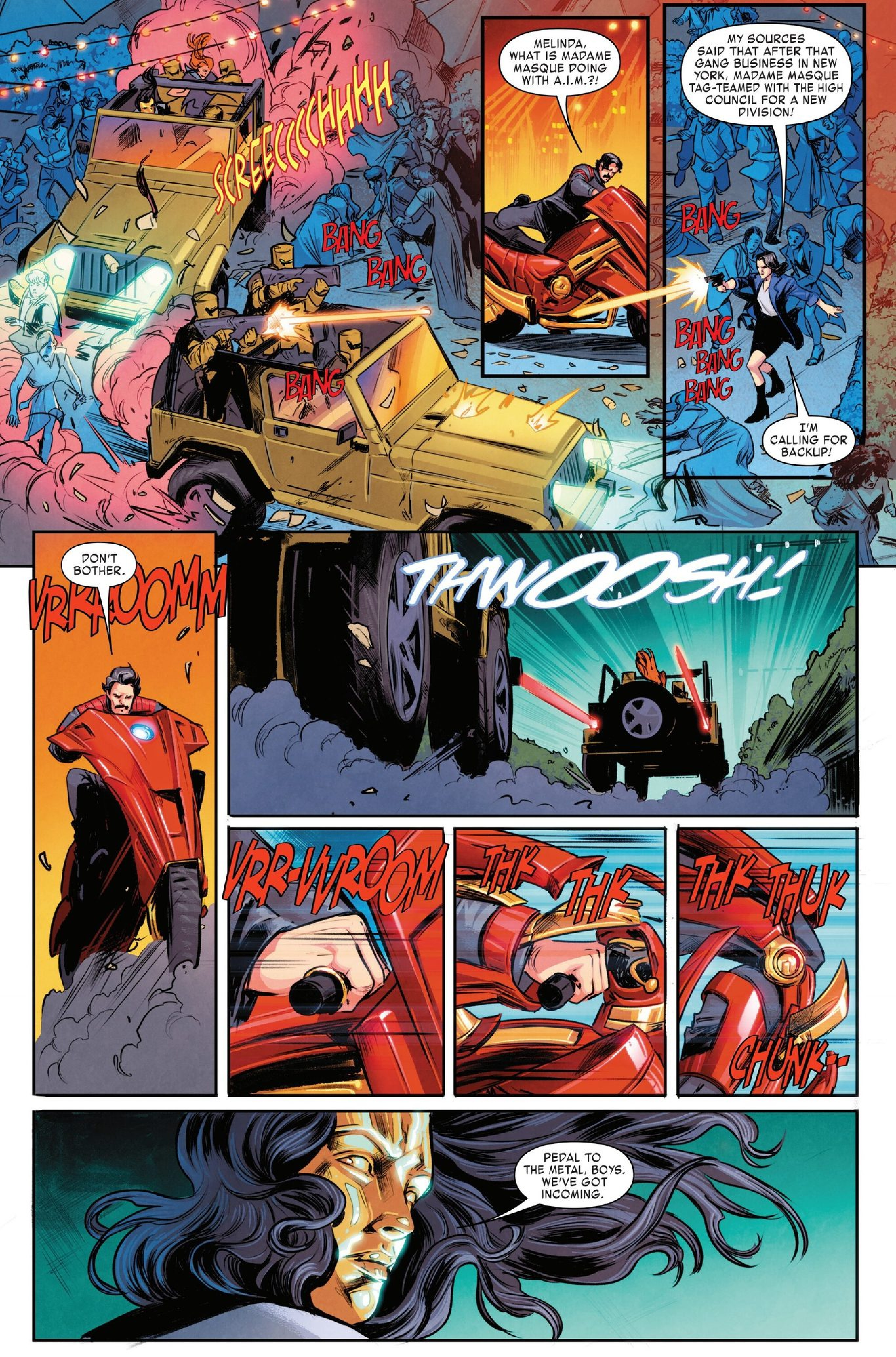

WITH MY HELP.
PEPPER?
GOOD TO SEE YOU, TONY. I HEARD YOU'VE BEEN BACK IN THE WORKSHOP... BUILDING AGAIN.
IT'S WHAT I'M BEST AT...AMONG OTHER THINGS... PEPPER, I--
I'VE BEEN MAINTAINING MY ROLE AT THE MARIA STARK FOUNDATION, BUT YEARS AGO, YOU ASKED ME TO SET UP A *TONY STARK GRANT AWARD.*
YOU HANDPICKED THE BRIGHTEST MINDS TO BE AWARDED A GRANT, AND THE RECIPIENTS WHO BEST USED THE GRANT MONEY WERE UP FOR THIS AWARD.
AND THE WINNER IS...?
LET ME INTRODUCE YOU...

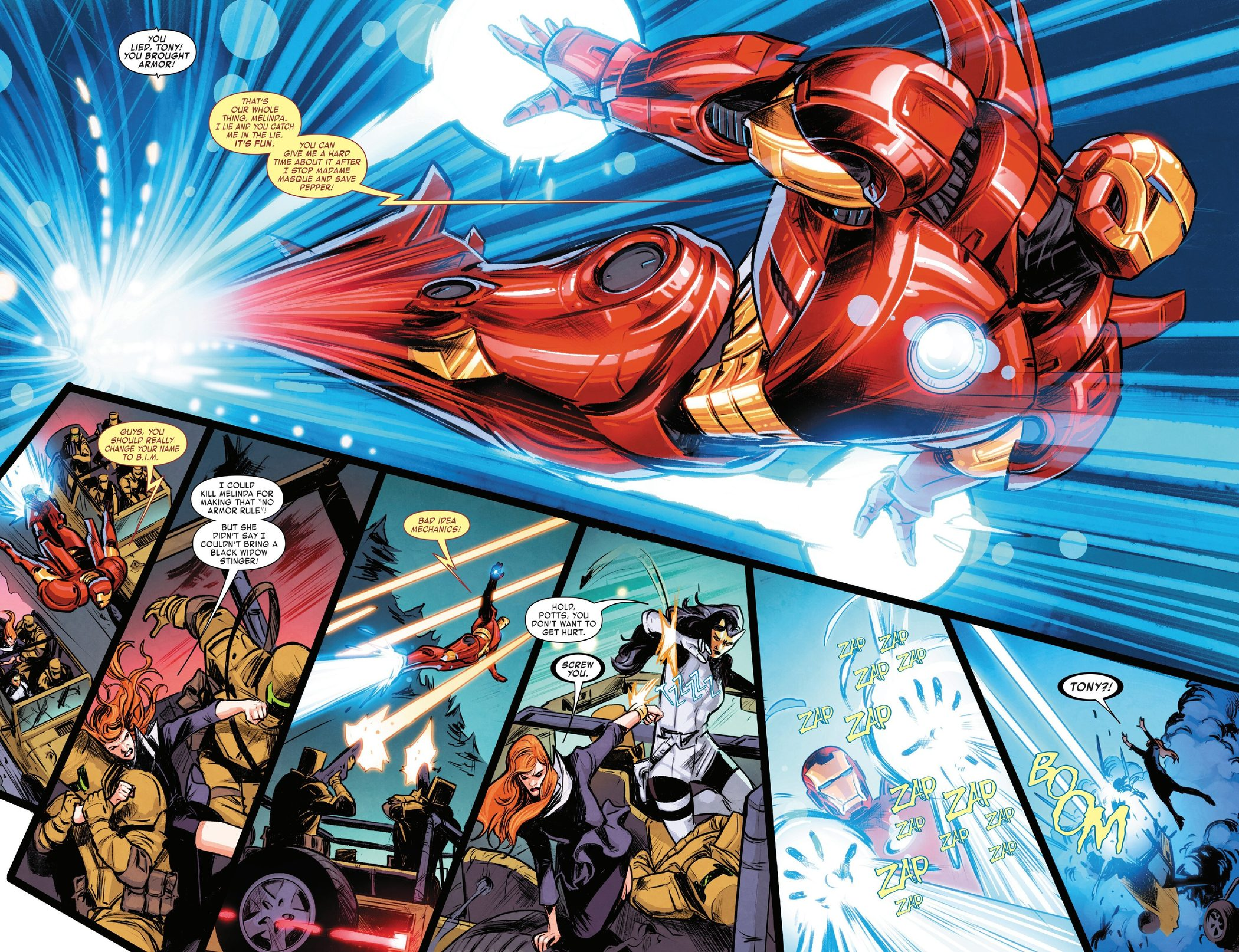

ADAM WARE.
IT'S INCREDIBLE TO MEET IN PERSON, MR. STARK.
I REMEMBER YOU. THE TEACHER.
YOU SPECIALIZE IN NEW EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGIES. FINDING WAYS TO SHARE MASTERCLASSES WITH PEOPLE WHO MIGHT NOT HAVE ACCESS. IT'S GENIUS WORK USING PUZZLES AND ***PROBLEM-SOLVING.***
THAT'S RIGHT. AND I'D LOVE YOU TO COME BY MY CLASSROOM SOMETIME. MY STUDENTS COULD LEARN A LOT FROM YOUR EXPERIENCES.
YOUR TIE... MY FATHER HAD ONE JUST LIKE IT WHEN I WAS A KID.
THAT'S FUNNY. MY FATHER GAVE ME THIS ONE. I CAN'T AFFORD A FANCY ONE ON A TEACHER'S SALARY, Y'KNOW?
TONY, IT'S TIME.
BUT I DON'T HAVE A SPEECH.
I HEARD YOU'RE QUICK ON YOUR FEET.
UH...
HE'S CHOKING.
NO, JUST GIVE HIM A SEC. HE'LL THINK OF SOMETHING. HE ALWAYS DOES.
THIS AWARD...
THIS AWARD SHOULD REALLY BE NAMED AFTER MY FATHER...

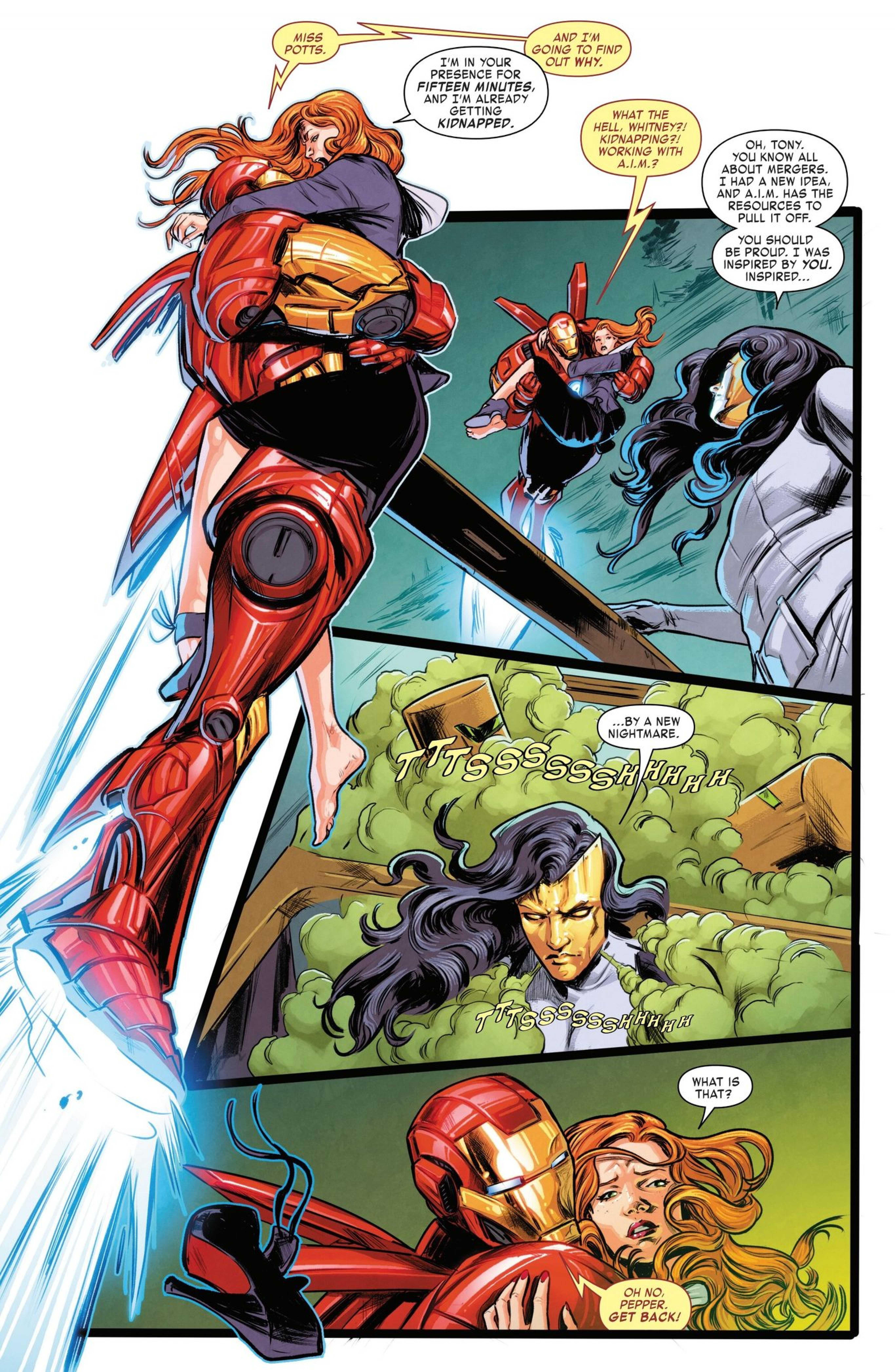

HOWARD STARK WAS A LOT OF THINGS TO A LOT OF PEOPLE. BUT MOST OF ALL, I KNOW THAT MY FATHER SHARED HIS GENIUS, HIS LIFE AND HIS HOPE FOR HUMANITY WITH AS MANY PEOPLE AS HE COULD.
HE GAVE ME MY NAME. HE WORKED TO GIVE EVERYONE PROTECTION. TO GIVE THEM A BETTER FUTURE.
THERE ARE TIMES WHEN I FEEL LOST OR UNSURE OF WHERE I AM IN THE WORLD, AND I JUST REMIND MYSELF OF MY FATHER'S LEGACY OF GIVING. OF SHARING WITH OTHERS.
SO TODAY, WE CONTINUE THAT TRADITION WITH AWARDING THE TONY STARK AWARD TO SOMEONE WHO HELPS US BUILD A BETTER FUTURE.
TO ADAM WARE.
CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP
SIGH
I KNOW THAT LOOK. YOU'RE DEBATING ORDERING OFF MENU, AREN'T YOU?

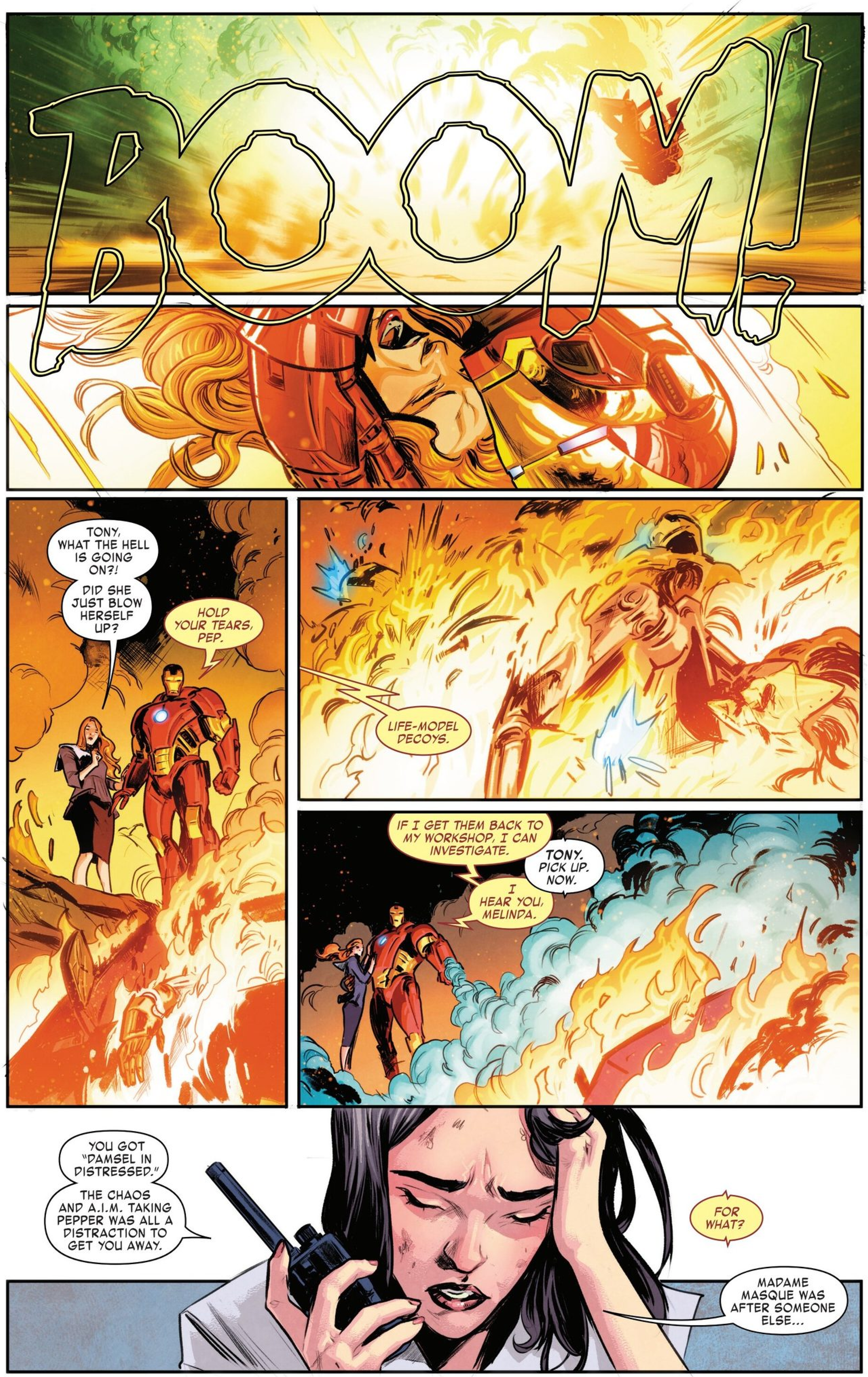

BUT I'M A STEP AHEAD OF YOU.
NORMALLY, I DON'T CARE WHO THE PARTY IS FOR, I DON'T ALLOW THAT, BUT FOR THE MAN OF THE HOUR, I THOUGHT I COULD MAKE AN EXCEPTION.
MY FAVORITE.
YOU MADE THIS JUST FOR ME?
WHO *ARE* YOU?
LUNA LUCIA.
AND I DIDN'T GET THE IMPRESSION A GUY WHO HAS A BIKER JACKET AND HOVER-BIKE WANTED CAVIAR.
YOU WANT TO GET OUT OF HERE?
JUST LIKE THAT?
JUST LIKE THAT.
SORRY, I DON'T DATE *DANGEROUS MEN.*
YOU WOUND ME.
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK I'M DANGEROUS?
BECAUSE I'M ALWAYS ATTRACTED TO DANGEROUS MEN.
WINK
BANG

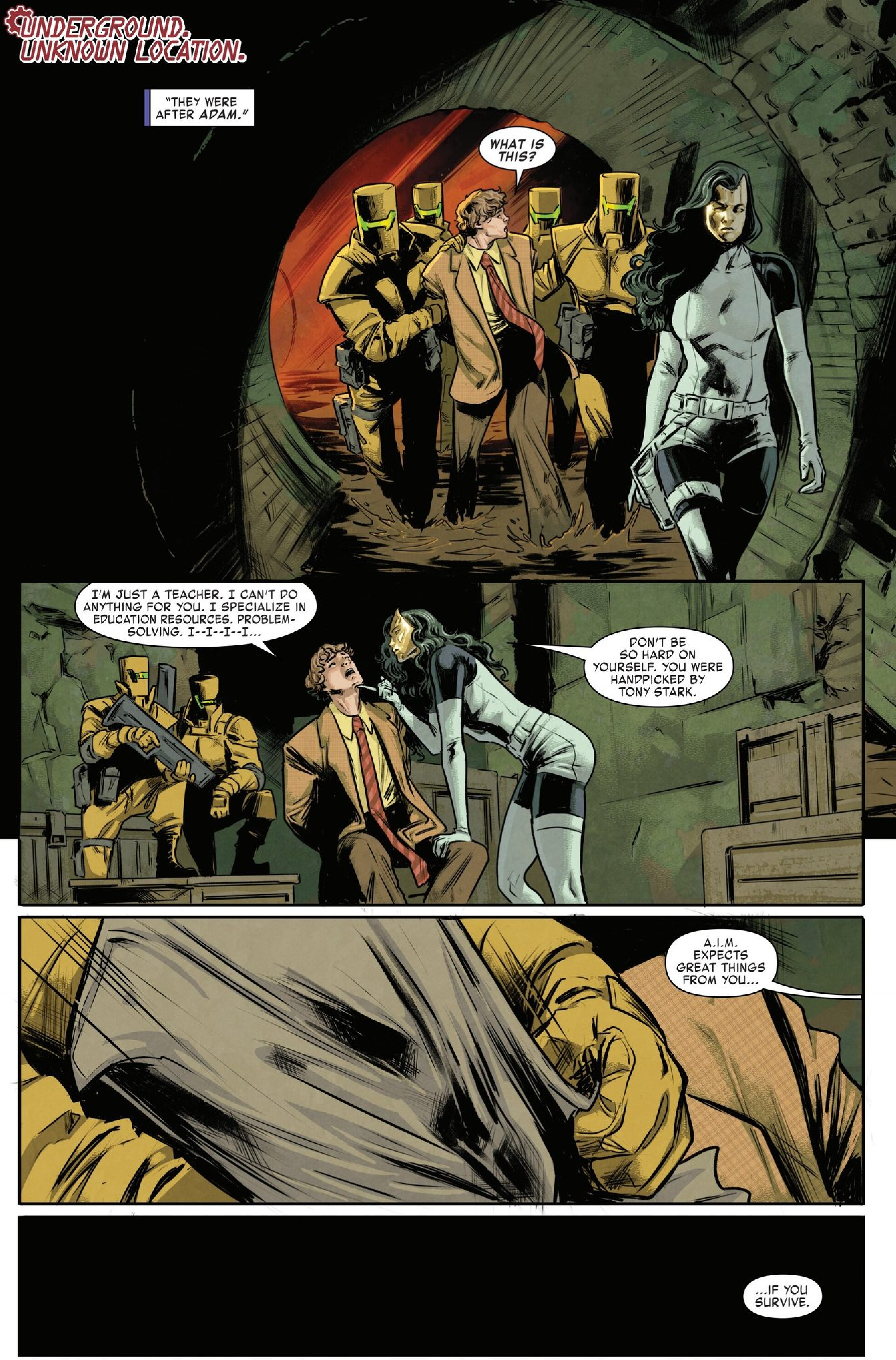

A CELEBRATION OF THE BEST AND BRIGHTEST AND YOU DON'T INVITE *MOI*?
I GUESS ADVANCED IDEA MECHANICS' INVITATION GOT LOST IN THE MAIL?
BUT IT'S FINE--WE THROW BETTER PARTIES ANYWAY.
MADAME MASQUE! PUT THE GUN DOWN!
WHAT IS THIS, GHOSTS OF EXES PAST? DID EMMA FORGET TO SHOW UP TOO?
CUTE.
TAKE HER.
TONY!

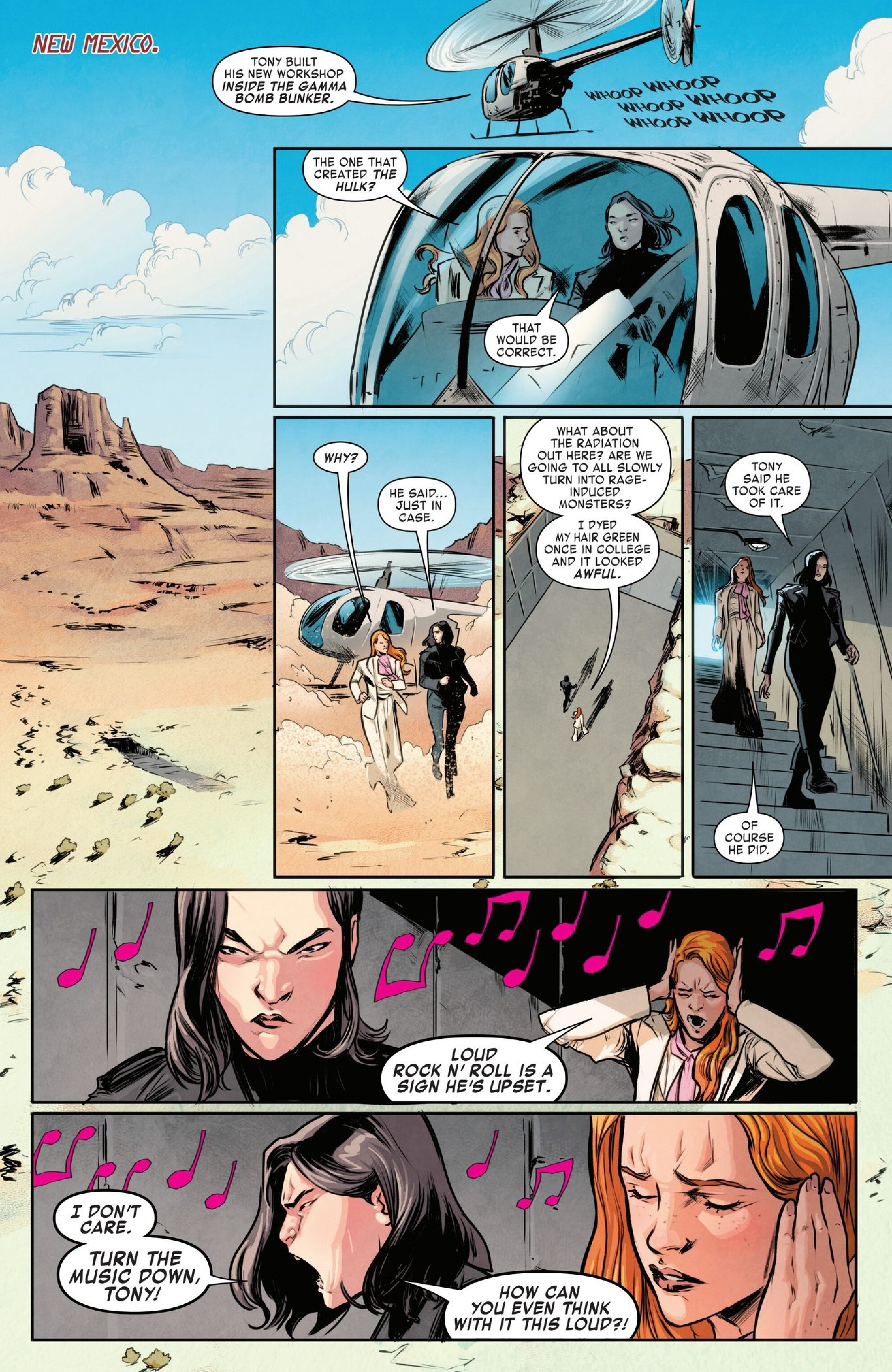

SCREECCCCHHHH
BANG
BANG
BANG
MELINDA, WHAT IS MADAME MASQUE DOING WITH A.I.M.?!
MY SOURCES SAID THAT AFTER THAT GANG BUSINESS IN NEW YORK, MADAME MASQUE TAG-TEAMED WITH THE HIGH COUNCIL FOR A NEW DIVISION!
BANG
BANG
BANG
BANG
I'M CALLING FOR BACKUP!
DON'T BOTHER.
VRRROOMM
THWOOSH!
VRR-VVROOM
THK
THK
THK
THUK
CHUNK
PEDAL TO THE METAL, BOYS. WE'VE GOT INCOMING.

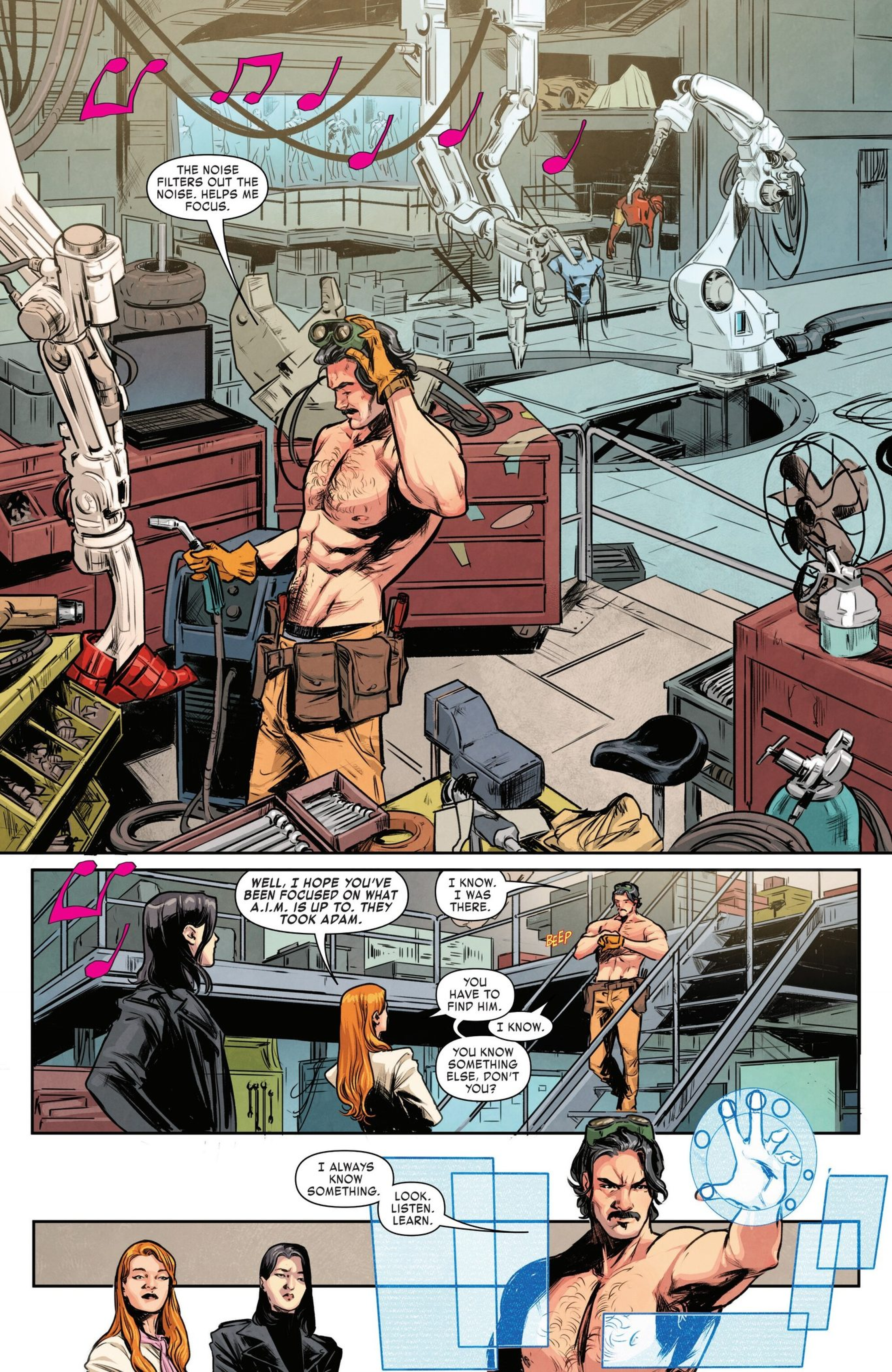

YOU LIED, TONY! YOU BROUGHT ARMOR!
THAT'S OUR WHOLE THING, MELINDA. I LIE AND YOU CATCH ME IN THE LIE. **IT'S FUN.**
YOU CAN GIVE ME A HARD TIME ABOUT IT AFTER I STOP MADAME MASQUE AND SAVE PEPPER!
GUYS, YOU SHOULD REALLY CHANGE YOUR NAME TO B.I.M.
I COULD KILL MELINDA FOR MAKING THAT "NO ARMOR RULE"!
BUT SHE DIDN'T SAY I COULDN'T BRING A BLACK WIDOW STINGER!
BAD IDEA MECHANICS!
HOLD, POTTS, YOU DON'T WANT TO GET HURT.
SCREW YOU.
ZZZZZ
ZAP ZAP
ZAP ZAP
ZAP ZAP
ZAP
ZAP ZAP
ZAP ZAP ZAP
ZAP ZAP
ZAP
ZAP
TONY?!
BOOM

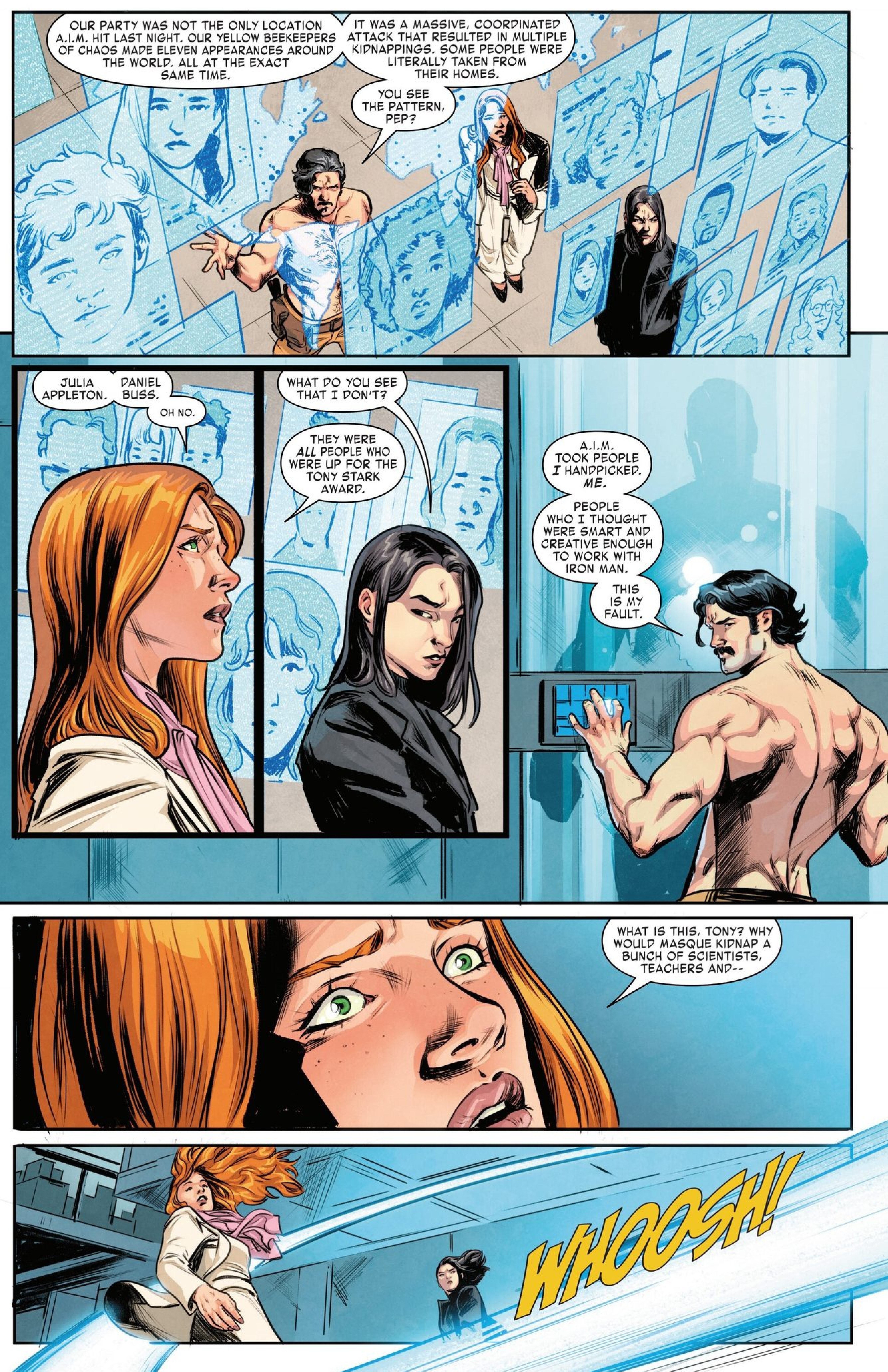

MISS POTTS.
I'M IN YOUR PRESENCE FOR *FIFTEEN MINUTES*, AND I'M ALREADY GETTING *KIDNAPPED*.
AND I'M GOING TO FIND OUT *WHY*.
WHAT THE HELL, WHITNEY?! KIDNAPPING?! WORKING WITH A.I.M.?
OH, TONY. YOU KNOW ALL ABOUT MERGERS. I HAD A NEW IDEA, AND A.I.M. HAS THE RESOURCES TO PULL IT OFF.
YOU SHOULD BE PROUD. I WAS INSPIRED BY *YOU*. INSPIRED...
...BY A NEW NIGHTMARE.
TTTSSSSSSSHHHHHH
TTTSSSSSSSHHHHHH
WHAT IS THAT?
OH NO, PEPPER. **GET BACK!**

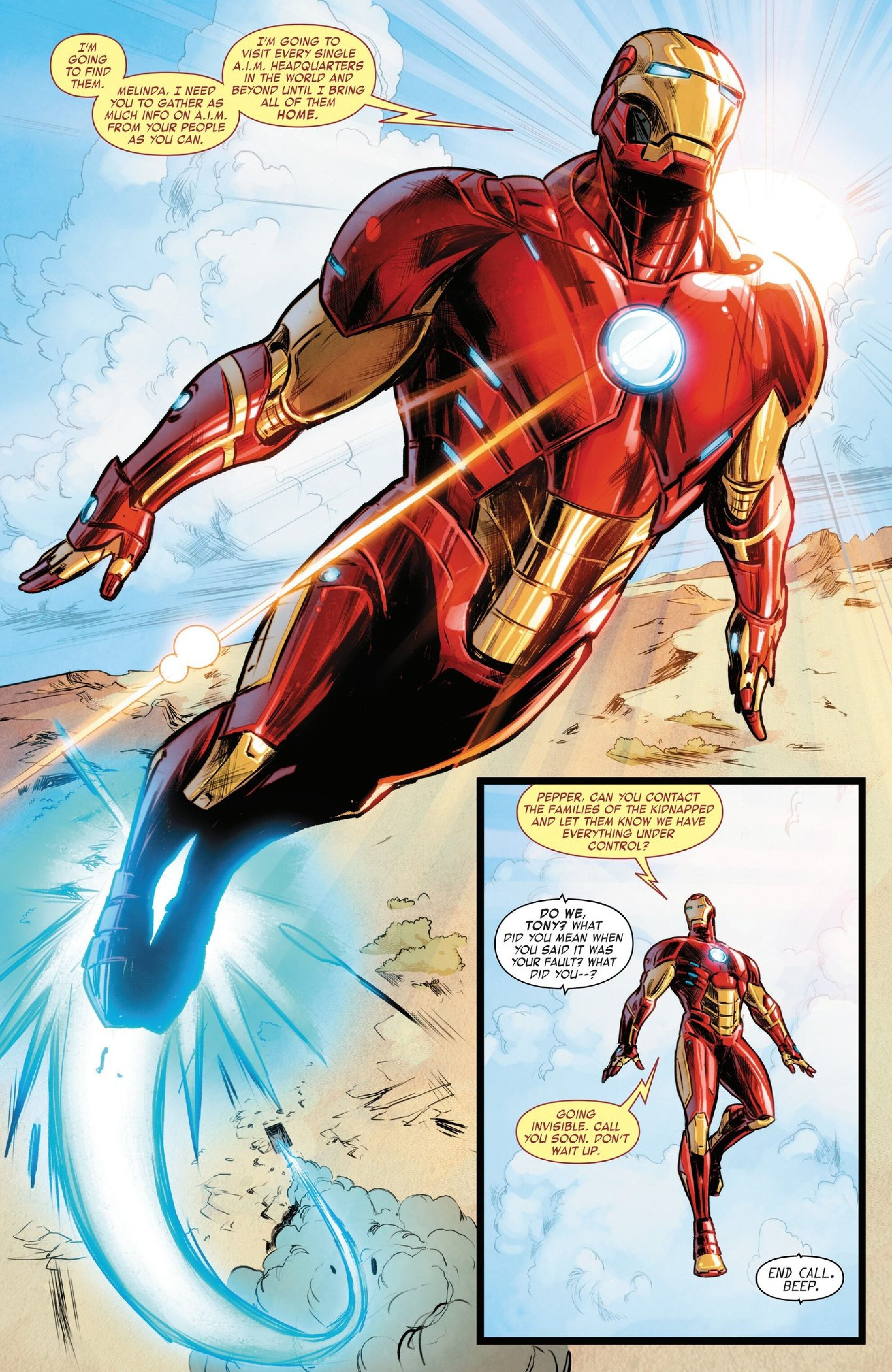

BOOM!
TONY, WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON?!
DID SHE JUST BLOW HERSELF UP?
HOLD YOUR TEARS, PEP.
LIFE-MODEL DECOYS.
IF I GET THEM BACK TO MY WORKSHOP, I CAN INVESTIGATE.
TONY. PICK UP. NOW.
I HEAR YOU, MELINDA.
YOU GOT "DAMSEL IN DISTRESSED."
THE CHAOS AND A.I.M. TAKING PEPPER WAS ALL A DISTRACTION TO GET YOU AWAY.
FOR WHAT?
MADAME MASQUE WAS AFTER SOMEONE ELSE...

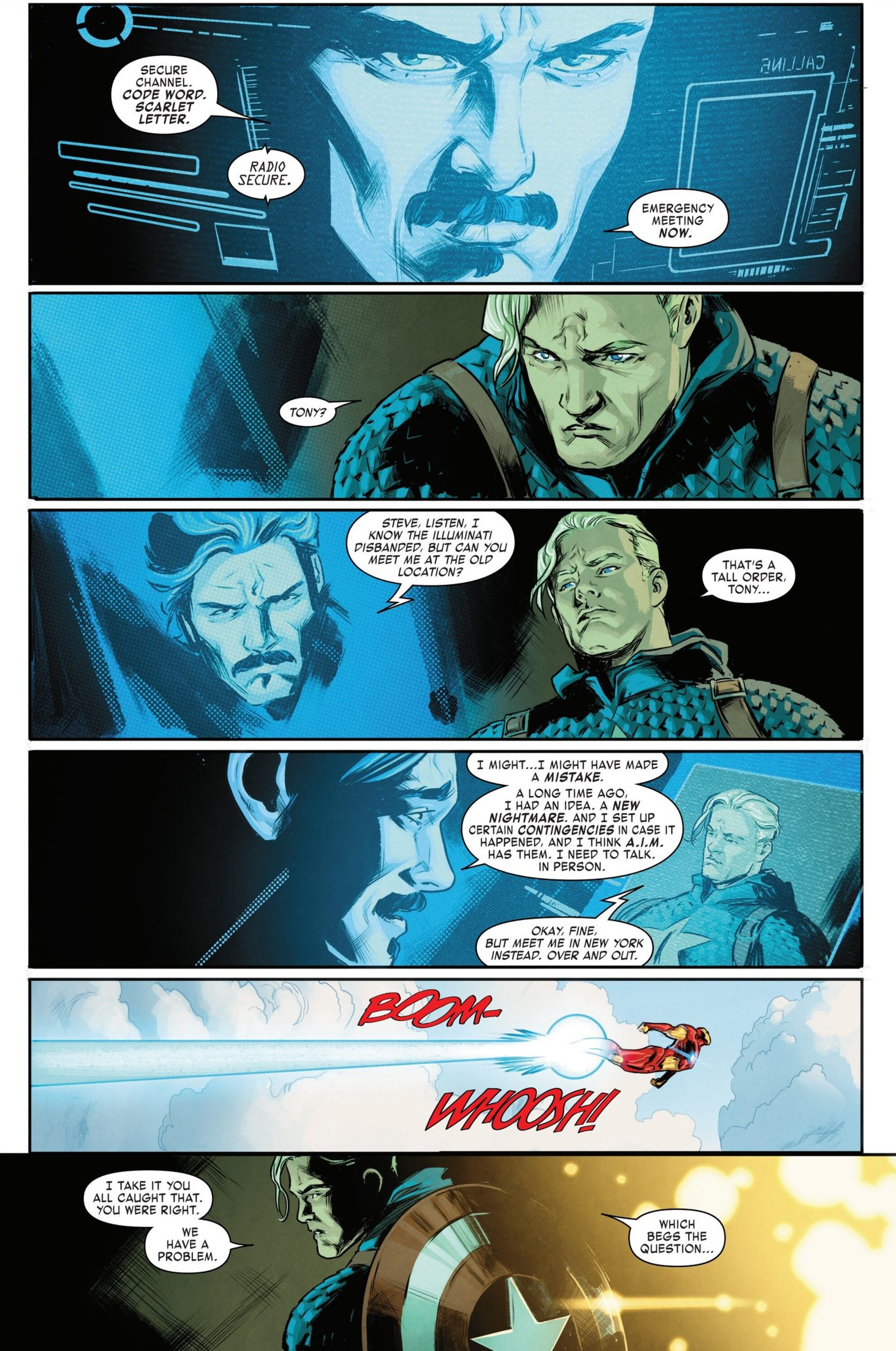

UNDERGROUND. UNKNOWN LOCATION.
"THEY WERE AFTER *ADAM.*"
WHAT IS THIS?
I'M JUST A TEACHER. I CAN'T DO ANYTHING FOR YOU. I SPECIALIZE IN EDUCATION RESOURCES. PROBLEM-SOLVING. I--I--I--I...
DON'T BE SO HARD ON YOURSELF. YOU WERE HANDPICKED BY TONY STARK.
A.I.M. EXPECTS GREAT THINGS FROM YOU...
...IF YOU SURVIVE.

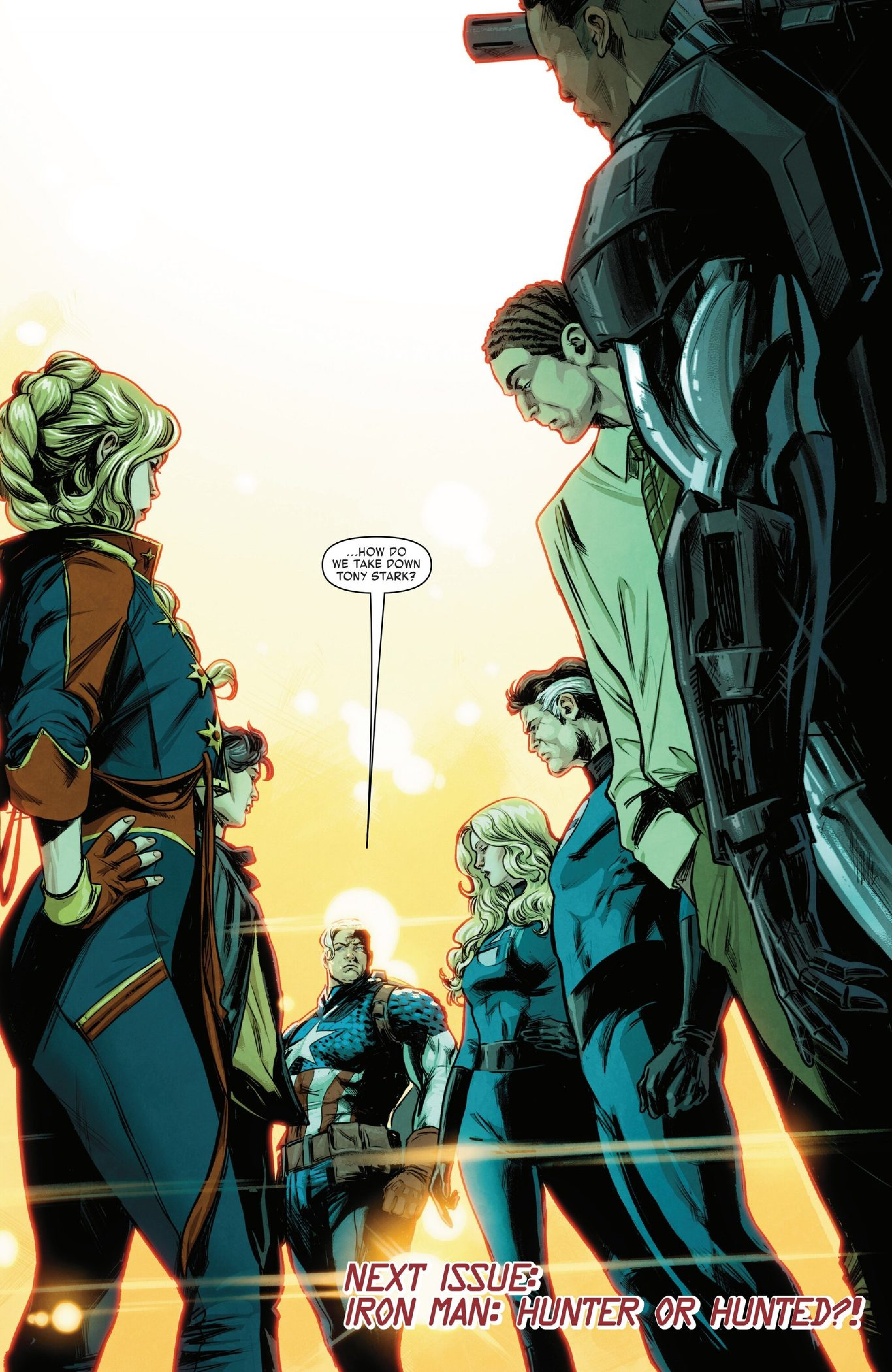

NEW MEXICO.
TONY BUILT HIS NEW WORKSHOP INSIDE THE GAMMA BOMB BUNKER.
WHOOP WHOOP WHOOP WHOOP WHOOP WHOOP
THE ONE THAT CREATED THE HULK?
THAT WOULD BE CORRECT.
WHY?
HE SAID... JUST IN CASE.
WHAT ABOUT THE RADIATION OUT HERE? ARE WE GOING TO ALL SLOWLY TURN INTO RAGE-INDUCED MONSTERS?
I DYED MY HAIR GREEN ONCE IN COLLEGE AND IT LOOKED AWFUL.
TONY SAID HE TOOK CARE OF IT.
OF COURSE HE DID.
LOUD ROCK N' ROLL IS A SIGN HE'S UPSET.
I DON'T CARE.
TURN THE MUSIC DOWN, TONY!
HOW CAN YOU EVEN THINK WITH IT THIS LOUD?!


THE NOISE FILTERS OUT THE NOISE. HELPS ME FOCUS.
WELL, I HOPE YOU'VE BEEN FOCUSED ON WHAT A.I.M. IS UP TO. THEY TOOK ADAM.
I KNOW. I WAS THERE.
BEEP
YOU HAVE TO FIND HIM.
I KNOW.
YOU KNOW SOMETHING ELSE, DON'T YOU?
I ALWAYS KNOW SOMETHING.
LOOK. LISTEN. LEARN.


OUR PARTY WAS NOT THE ONLY LOCATION A.I.M. HIT LAST NIGHT. OUR YELLOW BEEKEEPERS OF CHAOS MADE ELEVEN APPEARANCES AROUND THE WORLD. ALL AT THE EXACT SAME TIME.
IT WAS A MASSIVE, COORDINATED ATTACK THAT RESULTED IN MULTIPLE KIDNAPPINGS. SOME PEOPLE WERE LITERALLY TAKEN FROM THEIR HOMES.
YOU SEE THE PATTERN, PEP?
JULIA APPLETON.
DANIEL BUSS.
OH NO.
WHAT DO YOU SEE THAT I DON'T?
THEY WERE *ALL* PEOPLE WHO WERE UP FOR THE TONY STARK AWARD.
A.I.M. TOOK PEOPLE *I* HANDPICKED. ***ME.***
PEOPLE WHO I THOUGHT WERE SMART AND CREATIVE ENOUGH TO WORK WITH IRON MAN.
THIS IS MY FAULT.
WHAT IS THIS, TONY? WHY WOULD MASQUE KIDNAP A BUNCH OF SCIENTISTS, TEACHERS AND--
WHOOSH!


I'M GOING TO FIND THEM.
MELINDA, I NEED YOU TO GATHER AS MUCH INFO ON A.I.M. FROM YOUR PEOPLE AS YOU CAN.
I'M GOING TO VISIT EVERY SINGLE A.I.M. HEADQUARTERS IN THE WORLD AND BEYOND UNTIL I BRING ALL OF THEM **HOME.**
PEPPER, CAN YOU CONTACT THE FAMILIES OF THE KIDNAPPED AND LET THEM KNOW WE HAVE EVERYTHING UNDER CONTROL?
DO WE, TONY? WHAT DID YOU MEAN WHEN YOU SAID IT WAS YOUR FAULT? WHAT DID YOU--?
GOING INVISIBLE. CALL YOU SOON. DON'T WAIT UP.
END CALL. BEEP.


CALLING
SECURE CHANNEL. CODE WORD. SCARLET LETTER.
RADIO SECURE.
EMERGENCY MEETING NOW.
TONY?
STEVE, LISTEN, I KNOW THE ILLUMINATI DISBANDED, BUT CAN YOU MEET ME AT THE OLD LOCATION?
THAT'S A TALL ORDER, TONY...
I MIGHT...I MIGHT HAVE MADE A MISTAKE.
A LONG TIME AGO, I HAD AN IDEA. A NEW NIGHTMARE. AND I SET UP CERTAIN CONTINGENCIES IN CASE IT HAPPENED, AND I THINK A.I.M. HAS THEM. I NEED TO TALK. IN PERSON.
OKAY, FINE, BUT MEET ME IN NEW YORK INSTEAD. OVER AND OUT.
BOOM-
WHOOSH!
I TAKE IT YOU ALL CAUGHT THAT. YOU WERE RIGHT.
WE HAVE A PROBLEM.
WHICH BEGS THE QUESTION...


...HOW DO WE TAKE DOWN TONY STARK?
NEXT ISSUE:
IRON MAN: HUNTER OR HUNTED?!

printed circuits

EDITOR// **DANNY KHAZEM**
SENIOR EDITOR// **WIL MOSS**
EDITOR IN CHIEF// **C.B. CEBULSKI**

What a way to kick off the new year in style with a brand-spankin'-new **IRON MAN #1**!

Danny Khazem here, your resident editor (i.e., the guy behind the scenes here at Marvel HQ) kicking things off with a new direction, new armors and biggest of all: a new creative team!

To start, please join me in welcoming JOSHUA WILLIAMSON back to hallowed halls of Marvel! You may know him from some of his work over the last decade across the street at the *Distinguished Competition* or from his independent comics work, but Josh at his core is a huge Iron Man FAN--and it shows!

CARMEN CARNERO may need no introduction for Marvel fans as she is a legacy Stormbreaker who has had runs on CAPTAIN MARVEL, CAPTAIN AMERICA and EXCEPTIONAL X-MEN! She brings storytelling and heart in every issue, page, panel and line! We couldn't be happier to have her here!

And with her, colorist extraordinaire, consummate professional and frequent Carmen collaborator, NOLAN WOODARD!

And we can't forget the man who brings it all together, letterer JOE CARAMAGNA!

If you are a new reader just joining us, someone who is familiar with Iron Man from the movies, tv shows, video games, toys, anywhere outside of the comics, let me give you a big warm WELCOME and THANK YOU! You've found yourself in the greatest place of all, the birthplace of Marveldom--COMIC BOOKS!

And if you are an avid Shellhead fan, returning friend of the series or just trying out this new era of Iron Man but still a reader of these funny mags--WELCOME BACK! Without you, IRON MAN wouldn't be what he is today, so to you all out there who have been supporting IRON MAN over the last 64 years--THANK YOU!

Eagle-eyed readers may notice that we are on our way to Legacy Issue #700--which the *AVENGERS* just recently celebrated!--so you know we have big plans for the Golden Avenger well into 2027!

All that said, I couldn't be happier to be right here with you, intrepid readers, as we pave a new path in the skyways for Tony Stark! But to build, sometimes you need to break a few things…

Now, that's enough from me--Josh, why don't you jump in here?

A few years ago, I took my family to Disneyland. It was the first time we'd been able to go since the pandemic, so we were excited. But it was also the first time that we'd be able to go to the new Avengers Campus. It was early morning, and we did the rope drop for California Adventure. As we walked into Avengers Campus I was hit with the music. The Avengers theme. And then we saw Doctor Strange, Captain Marvel, Hawkeye, Thor and Spider-Man…and then we saw one of my favorite Marvel heroes… Iron Man. And it hit me. I had to write for Marvel again. But I also knew it had to be Iron Man.

I've read Iron Man comics nearly my whole life. My obsession started with my Secret Wars toy in the '80s, and then thankfully grew into a love of the character in the comics. And for the last ten years I've had an epic Iron Man idea in my head that I was dying to write.

Tony Stark is one of my favorite characters in all of comics. Not just Iron Man. But Tony Stark. I've always wondered about him beyond the armor. In some ways Tony could have been a villain at Marvel. That could have been his future, if it wasn't for his near-death experience in the cave. It changed him. It made him a better person. After that, Tony knew he had to use his genius to save lives. To make the world a better place. And his belief that he knows what is right has gotten him into trouble a few times, but thankfully he endures and saves the day.

But I've always wondered if Tony thought he was on death's door again, what would he create next… and what happened if someone went through the same process as him? Those ideas haunted me. Just as they haunt Tony.

And now you have the beginning of that story in your hands. We're creating a story about Tony Stark and his role in the Marvel Universe. Carmen and Nolan are doing career work here. They are making Iron Man and his world fun, energetic and sexy. Take that awesomeness and add the amazing letters by the great Joe Caramagna! It's pure super hero escapism in comics form.

The work we're doing with the new Iron Man series comes from a place of love and honor for the characters' pasts while we continue to build toward the future. I look forward to you checking it out. I hope you're along for the wide ride we're about to put Tony and his world on. And next time I'm in Disneyland I look forward to handing a copy of Iron Man #1 to Iron Man himself.

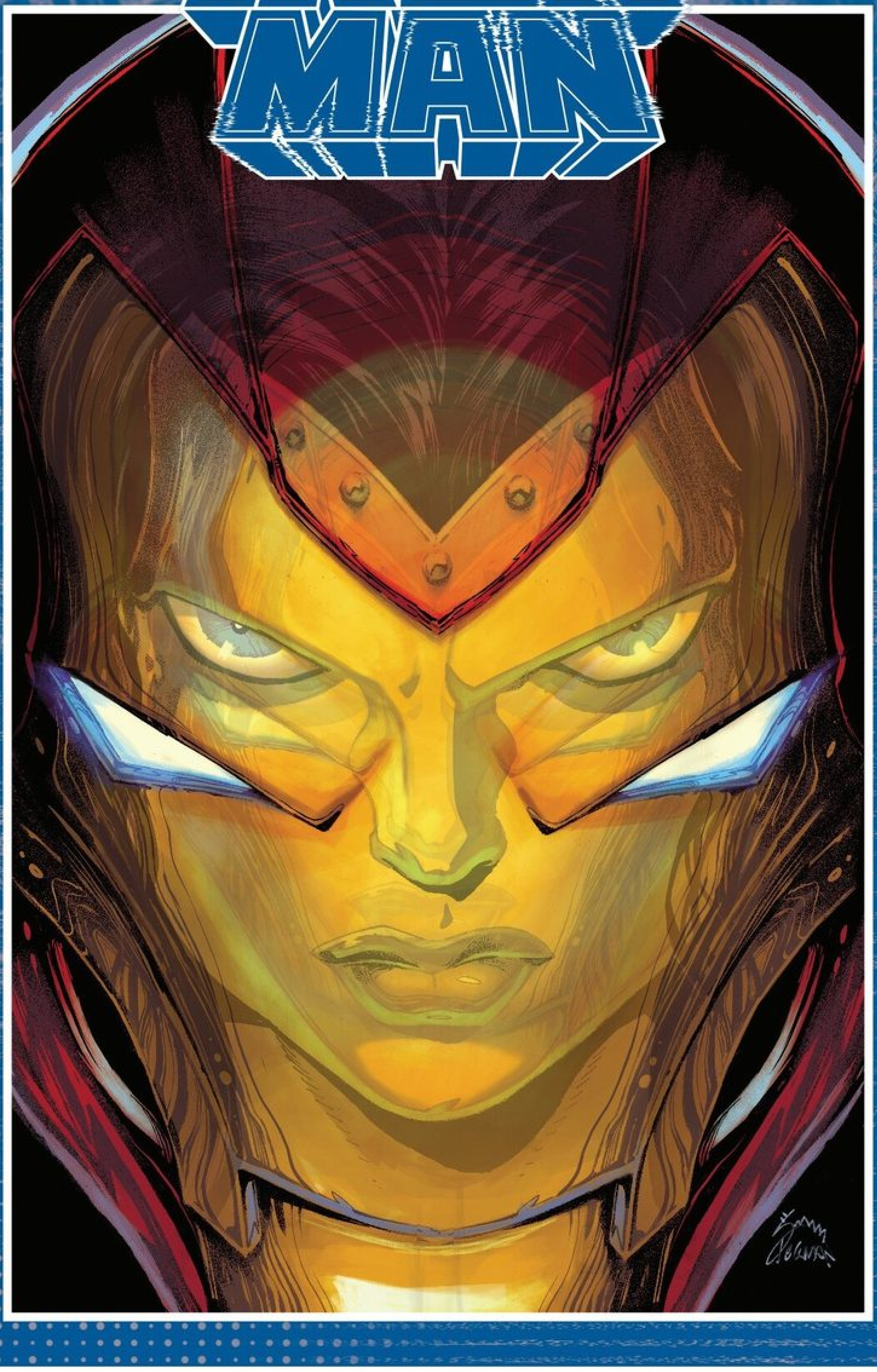
Joshua Williamson
Portland, Oregon

See y'all in 30!

Stay Safe!
-DK

EMAIL US AT **MHEROES@MARVEL.COM** AND MARK YOUR MESSAGES **"OKAY TO PRINT"** FOR A CHANCE TO SEE THEM ANSWERED IN FUTURE ISSUES!

next: IRON MAN **#2**

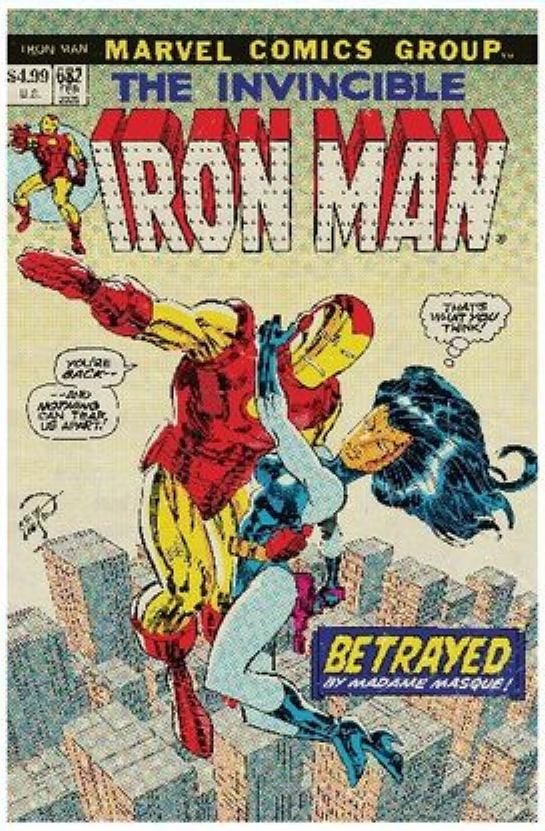


EXCITED FOR ISSUE 2?

Check out some of our amazing--*erm, excuse me*--**INVINCIBLE** variant covers!

RYAN STEGMAN VARIANT BY
RYAN STEGMAN
& FRANK MARTIN

VILLAINS VARIANT BY
STEVE SKROCE &
RICHARD ISANOVE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